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ENGLISH BOOKS.

Lectures on the Elements of Chemistry; delivered in the University of Edingburgh; by the late Joseph Black, M. D. Professor of Chemistry in that University, Physician to His Majesty for Scotland, &c, &c. &c. Now published from his Manuscripts, by John Robison, L. L. D. Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, 2 vols. 4to. 3l. 3s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THE present work from one of the most eminent philosophers of the age, is now published by his pupil, his colleague, and his friend. This, the most grateful task which one man of science can undertake for another, has fallen into the hands of a gentleman eminently competent, who has long been engaged in the same course with his preceptor, has studied under his direction, and formed his mind from his example.

Within something less than a century, chemistry has attained to what it now is, and boundless as is the prospect even of further improvement, it must be confessed to have arrived at a perfection which the human mind, in its most sanguine hopes, could scarcely have expected.

Priestley, Lavoisier, M'Bride, Cavendish, and Black, names well known to philosophy, have opened a new world to the naturalist, and, though venturing in an untrodden road, in a science of such immense extent, and abstruse principles, have by the aid of genius, and the more certain light of experiment, enriched us with such stores of undiscovered and useful truths, that they must be considered as the most eminent benefactors of mankind. But among all the professors of chemistry, for the certainty of his deductions, and the industry with which his experiments have been made, Dr. Black may take the lead. If in the novelty and varieties of his dicoveries he is excelled by Priestley, in exactness and truth he far surpasses him. Priestley, in chemistry, may be compared to Ariosto in Poetry: invention he possessed in the highest degree; his only deficiency was a correct judgment. He goes on heaping wonders on wonders, without order or connection, starting a subject only to run away from it; wearying by his digressions, but still pleasing by his variety, contradicting himself in his eagerness for novelty, and perpetually at variance with his own, and every other system, from not giving himself time to fit his materials, and commence with regular foundations. In Black, there is, perhaps, not so much invention, but every thing is regular and methodical; at once general and precise, important in itself, and tending, as a part, to a general result. The greater discoveries in chemistry have been introduced within these thirty years; during that time almost all our distinguished chemists have flourished as cotemporaries, have been formed into a confederacy for the improvement of the science, and have conquered, by mutual alliance, the obstructions of their progress. How much may be achieved by the union of many geniuses, and the concentration of great powers, in every branch of philosophy, has sufficiently been proved by examples which it would be tedious to adduce. It was a saying of Swift's that there are seldom more than two or three men of genius living at the same

time, and if they were to unite, they might overturn the world: this observation we may apply to our great chemical philosophers, who were at once cotemporaries and confederates, but instead of being so mischievously inclined as to overturn the world, they were employed in enlarging the knowledge of it, and may actually be said to have discovered a new one.

But our prefatory remarks must not run into too great length.

Dr. Robison has prefixed to this publication a life of the author, which is too interesting not to abstract.

Dr. Joseph Black was born in France, on the banks of the Garonne, in the year 1728. His father was a native of Belfast in Ireland, but of a Scotch family settled there. This gentleman was the friend of Montesquieu, and many of the letters which passed between him and the illustrous President, are preserved in Dr. Black's family. 'My father, says Dr. Black, was 'honoured with President Montesquieu's friendship, on account of his good 'character and virtues. He had no ambition to be very rich, but was chearful and contented, benevolent and liberal-minded, industrious, and prudent in business, of the strictest probity and honour, very temperate, and 'regular in his manner of life. He, and my mother, who was equally domestic, educated thirteen of their children, eight sons, and five daughters, 'who all grew up to be men and women, and settled in different places. 'My mother taught her children to read English, there being no school for 'that purpose at Bourdeaux.' Dr. Black was educated in the University of Glasgow. Being required by his father to choose his profession, he preferred that of medicine, and commenced his studies under the celebrated Dr. William Cullen. This great physician had just then entered on his career, was become conscious of his own strength, and saw the vast unoccupied field of chemistry open before him.—Before his time chemistry had been treated as a curious and useful art, capable of much improvement by enquiry and experiment. 'But Cullen saw in it a vast department of the 'science of nature, which must be founded on principles as immutable 'as the laws of mechanism. He quickly succeeded in taking chemistry 'out of the hands of the artists, the metallurgists, and pharmaceutics, 'and exhibited it as a liberal science, and the study of a gentleman.' Young Black caught the zeal of his master, and soon became an assistant in all his operations. When Dr. Black took his degree in medicine, he sent some copies of an essay he had written to his father. A copy was given by the old gentleman to his friend the President Montesquieu, who, after a few days, called on Mr. Black, and said to him, 'Mr. Black, my very good friend; 'your son will be the honour of your name and family.' Dr. Black's first appointment was to the professorship of anatomy, and the lectureship on chemistry at Edinburgh. But his lectures on the institutes of medicine were his chief task. They gave the greatest satisfaction by their perspecuity and simplicity, and by the cautious moderation of all his general doctrines. In the mean time his chemical labours were pursued without remission. His theory of quicklime and causticity was soon known and opposed by the German chemists. Mysterious doctrines concerning the intimate nature of fire were very general in the German school.

It was between the years 1759, and 1763, that he brought to maturity those speculations concerning the combination of heat or fire with the substance of a tangible matter, which had long occupied his thoughts.

Philosophers had long considered the thermometer as the only means of detecting the presence of heat or fire in bodies. Dr. Black contended against this principle, and established a new discovery,—'that heat is concealed in 'water,' in the most incontrovertible manner, by simple and decisive experminents. He drew up an account of the whole, and the doctrines which he

he founded on it, and read it to a literary society of the members of his university.

'Fortunately for Dr. Black, and the world, says his biographer, he had now 'gotten a pupil who was as keenly interested in this scientic question (the 'powers and properties of steam and water, as the Professor.' This was Mr. James Watt, then employed in fitting up Mr. M' Farlane's observatory at the university; a philosopher, in the most exalted sense of the word, who never could be satisfied with a conjectural knowledge of any subject, and who spared no labour or study to acquire certainty in his researches. He chanced to have in his hands, for repairs, a model of Newcomen's steam engine, belonging to the natural philosophy class, and was delighted with the opportunity which this small machine gave him for trying experiments connected with the theory of latent heat, which he had just learned from Dr. Black. These he prosecuted in a most happy train of success, and did not stop, till his steam engine was rendered more like the most docile of animals, than a frame of lifeless matter; 'so that, whilst its power is compe-'tent to the lifting a house from its place, a child of ten years old 'shall, with a touch of his hand, make it go fast or slow, forwards or back-'wards, and act either powerfully or feebly.' This gentleman, attached to Dr. Black by every tie of respect, esteem, and affection, supplied him with proofs and illustrations in abundance, of all the points on which the Professor wanted information. These were always recited in the class with the most cordial acknowledgement of obligation to Mr. Watt. It is unnecessary to enter into the particular properties of the steam engine, but without the discovery of Dr. Black, it is likely the invention of Mr. Watt would have been deferred to later ages. This most philosophical invention, together with those of a mechanical nature from the same sagacious source have, perhaps, done more to enrich the kingdom, in commercial prosperity, than any of the more eminent philosophical inventions of any age whatsoever. To have given new life to that spirit which is, in truth, the heart blood of the country; to have prolonged that prosperity, which the rivalry of other nations might have impaired, but that philosophy and science have fixed it on principles as stable as their own, is the praise, the unequalled and undisputed praise of Dr. Black, and Mr. Watt. The world is now well acquainted that the latter gentleman obtained a patent for his prime invention in the year 1769, as well as for various others since, and that he is now in possession of well merited and unenvied riches and fame. The life of Dr. Black, as given by Mr. Robison, is little more than an account of his studies and progress in chemical discovery. Through all we cannot follow him; having passed a long and useful life, he closed it in the year 1796, in the seventy-first year of his age. He died suddenly at table, in the most singular manner. 'Being at table, with his usual fare, some bread, a few prunes, 'and a measured quantity of milk, diluted with water, and having his cup in 'his hand when the last stroke of the pulse was to be given, he had set it 'down on his knees, and kept it steady with his hand, in the manner of a 'person perfectly at ease; and in this attitude expired, without spilling a 'drop, and without a writhe in his countenance, as if an experiment had 'been required to shew to his friends the facility with whlch he de-'parted.'

The account given of his friend by Dr. Robison is entitled to much commendation, though it has no claim to the beauties of style, or any of those excellencies which constitute a biographer. It is written, however, in a simple, perspicuous, manner, and we are happy to observe, in contradiction to the example of almost all the Scotch writers, that Dr. Robison is no man-

nerist. He is, likewise, no imitator of Johnson, whom almost all of the Edinburgh School, with the exception of Dr. Henry, have ridiculously taken as their model.

Dr. Black's work may be considered as comprehending a complete system of chemistry, from its elementary principles, to its remote deductions. Taken in this view nothing appears wanting; his elementary part must be intelligible to every capacity adapted to undertake the study of chemistry, and the more profound portion of his work, which is intended for men of science, or readers who have made their first progress, will be found equally satisfactory.

It has frequently been objected to the writers on chemistry, that their publications are useless in the hands of learners from their neglect of what may be called the grammar of the science. Experiments and discoveries are multiplied without end, but there is so little order, or regular commencement, such a confusion of parts, and want of connection, that a student reads without information, and is something in the predicament of a boy learning syntax, who is injudiciously put into a hard author, to construe one line of which he is obliged to have perpetual recourse to his grammar, and at last, if he ever improves at all, must commence *de novo*.

A complaint of this nature might easily be supported against Lavoisier himself, but Dr. Black must be acquitted. Our limits will not permit us to enter into a deep scientific criticism of this work, and such is its dignity, that a loose and popular one would be of no use; we shall close, therefore, with an extract, and an assertion, which will possibly be needless, that every professed chemist will soon possess it, convinced that he has even yet something to learn, and that Dr. Black will complete him; and that every student will choose him as a guide in the elements of a science, which he explores from beginning to end.

In his definition of chemistry, and the method he prescribes for understanding the science, Dr. Black may lay claim to much novelty and ingenuity. As our extract shall be taken from this most useful part, the reader will perceive something of the peculiarity of his sentiments, and the strength of his reasoning.

'One manifest impropriety in the greater part of the definitions of chemistry is, that their authors represent chemistry as an art. This error is to 'be seen in the definitions given by authors of the highest name, for such 'surely were Boerhaave, and Stahl, yet it is plain, from the writings of those 'authors, that their idea of chemistry did not correspond with such a denomination. They were probably led into this mistake by confining their attention too much to the chemical books which appeared before the beginning of this century. The greater number of these books had, indeed, for 'their principal object, a chemical art—the art of pharmacy: and though 'they broke the title of courses of chemistry they contained little more than 'the detail of processes, or rules, whereby a great number and variety of substances were prepared for the uses of medicine, with occasional services 'to the other arts, particularly metallurgy.

'At the same time, also, those commonly known by the name of chemists 'were chiefly, or solely, artists, employed in making certain chemical preparations, and products, according to rules and directions which they had learned to observe. But surely such persons, confining themselves to the exercise of an art, and, perhaps, describing and reaching this art in the most judicious and complete manner, are still upon a footing with all other chemical artists, such as brewers, distillers, dyers, and many others; and, if we choose

'choose to apply this term chemist to them, we must find some other term 'to distinguish from these artists such men as Sir Isaac Newton, Mr. Boyle, 'Cavendish, Priestley, Boerhaave, Scheele, Bergman, Lavoisier, and others, 'who have improved our science.

'The public now perceive the distinction, and in some measure make it, 'by calling the chemical artists trading chemists.

'From what I have now said, you may perceive something of the distinc- 'tion which I think necessary to keep in view between art and science; 'between the artist and the man of knowledge, or the philosopher. The man 'of knowledge, the philosopher, is he who studies and acquires knowledge in 'order to improve his own mind; and with a desire of extending the depart- 'ment of knowledge to which he turns his attention, or to render it useful to 'the world, by discoveries, or inventions, which may be the foundations of 'new arts, or of improvements in those already established. Excited by one 'or more of these motives, the philosopher employs himself in acquiring 'knowledge and in communicating it. The artist only executes and prac- 'tises what the man of invention or philosopher has discovered, or contrived-- 'while the business of the trader is to retail the productions of the artist, ex- 'change some of them for others, and transport them to distant places 'for that purpose.'

Our readers will receive this extract as a specimen of the elementary manner and style of this book. Dr. Black is too wordy and diffuse, but it will be remembered that he teaches a science, and conciseness and elegance must not be insisted upon in a didactic writer. The work is accompanied with numerous plates, notes, addenda, observations, &c. &c. and is extremely well printed.

A Non Military Journal, or observations made in Egypt, by an Officer of the Staff of the British Army; describing the Country, its Inhabitants, their Manners, and Customs; with Anecdotes illustrative of them. In a series of Letters. Embellished with Engravings. 4to. 150pp. 1l. 1s. 6d. Cadell and Davies, 1803.

JAM satis, we may truly say, in respect to the campaign of Egypt. None are more ready than ourselves to dwell upon the grateful subject of the exploits of our armies, their conquests, and more signal humanity, on the shores of the Nile. But pleasing as is the task to every patriot, it must be remembered that there are limits to every thing, and that in the words of the proverb, 'too much of a good thing is good for nothing.'

We have before now expressed a wish that our knowledge of Egypt might be perpetuated by other memorials than the victories we gained upon its shores; and that it might afford no less a harvest to national honour than to science and philosophy. The routes and countermarches of an army have, indeed, their interest, but all that relates to these we have already heard.— Satisfied, therefore, with having received enough, we shall not give countenance to more; nor can we think it fit, whatever be the secret charm in being an author that every subaltern and non-commissioned officer should be encouraged to multiply books, when the matter which is to compose them has been detailed in so many others.

The present author, though in the service, prudently terms his work a Non Military Journal. In this he shews his discernment, and submissions to the public taste. The origin and purport of this work is thus humourously explained by himself.

'As I do not wish to be out of the fashion, I present the reader with a 'few observations which were made during the campaign in Egypt; but think

'think it right to apprise you, that if you be one of those that live upon wars 'and rumours of wars, you will be sadly disapointed; for in this account, 'you will find every thing *but war*, which, like the part of Hamlet, in the 'Barn representation of that play, is left out—by particular desire.' The author's correspondence was with a lady, and it was his first intention to have published the *Campaign*, but the history of it being undertaken by abler hands, as he says, he desisted from an attempt at competition. There is one sentence in his Preface which disarms all severities of criticism. 'In sober 'seriousness, he says, this trifle, written by a soldier who aims not at literary 'fame, who never had any idea of making it public, and intended it only 'for the eye of a partial friend, will not, I hope and intreat, be judged with 'the severity of criticism.'

Though this excuse is sufficiently trite, we believe it unfeigned in the present author; and there is an honest bluntness which convinces us that he speaks truth upon a subject in which a little deviation from it has been held defensible.

It is with satisfaction, therefore, we assure our readers that they will be tolerably recompensed by reading this book. It is written in a light familiar stile, and exhibits a good picture of the correspondence of a gentleman with a lady, who desires useful information, which she uniformly receives from him on subjects of great curiosity. This writer, in his stile and manner, together with the substance of his narrative, reminds us of the celebrated lady Mary Wortley Montague. He gives us subjects which interest all; he promises no scientific account of natural curiosities, no catalogue of the contents of the pyramids, no theories of the plague, no attempts to discover the source of the Nile, but general amusement in the history of men and manners, and anecdotes which equally divert by their novelty and truth. It would be injustice not to give an extract.—

'When the Cairo division of the French army was about to embark for 'France, the scene that passed upon the quay of Rosetta was in truth a 'very singular one—the two contending christian powers were employed 'in the traffic of women, who were no more liable, in any justice, to be 'sold by the one, than bought by the other; yet there was a regular sale, 'on the part of the French, to our army, of the women of the country who 'lived with them. Several of our soldiers bought very pretty ones for a 'dollar, and it is ridiculous enough to see them parading through the streets 'with their dingy properties under their arms.'

'The Egyptian women are extremely abandoned; and whenever an opportunity offers, give full swing to their vicious inclinations. A vast 'number of them lived with the French soldiers, and almost invariably 'destroyed, by medicine, before birth, the creatures that would otherwise 'have seen the light, but, *would have been the children of christians.* Almost 'every officer had a woman to whom he voted himself married for the moment, and, when tired of her, sent her about her business. I have seen 'many of these women who have returned to their husbands, others have 'gone back to their parents, and several of them are since married to Arabs, 'who, poor fellows! with their eyes open to the misconduct of the women, 'have taken them, saying, 'it was the will of the prophet.' 'Their genii 'told them it was to be so.'

'The author thus describes a Turk in the luxury of eastern indolence—Figure to yourself this creature, too lazy to 'enjoy the fresh air, by 'walking upon the banks of the Nile; riding his Booricos (ass) to 'one of the gardens, attended by boys, who carry his pipe, coffee, 'cushion, and carpet,—there stretched out under a tree, apparently 'wrapt in weighty abstraction, seeming to meditate some great *coup*, while

'he puffs the smoke through his nostrils. Appearing to seek his tretreat to 'feed upon his fancy, immerged in the semblance of a deep thought. He 'thinks of nought but pipe, coffee, coffee and pipe. The maxim of this 'brute seems to be, let the morrow take care of itself, sufficient to the day 'is the evil thereof. Ignorant, superstitious, intolerent, and supercilious 'is the character of this self-sufficient being.'

The work concludes with an appendix containing a memoir relative to the optical phenomenon known by the name of Mirage; by Citizen Gaspard Monge: this account was presented to the institute at Cairo by the French Scavans.

The general merit of this author, concerning which we must now say a word, but without entering upon any severities of our office, may be summed up in pronouncing him a light and agreeable companion. He seems never to forget that he is writing to a lady, and though his letters are not full of fullsome gallantry, they have that kind of *prattle* and levity which is the burthen of a correspondence with almost all females. He does not sufficiently distinguish between the easiness of the familiar, and the loosness of the colloquial stile, and his expressions have sometimes a gross jocularity which are not only foreign to the professed author, but even to a man of polished mind, and any liberality of education, or intercourse with refined society. The word *funny* is a very inelegant term, and expressive of a jollity too coarse for the gentleman. We must likewise express a most pointed disapprobation of his constant introduction of scraps of French, a levity only pardonable in dilletante women. We have moreover to object to his humour, which has rather too much of the character of a wag. But after all, he is entitled to his full share of approbation, when compared with those authors who profess to be eccentric, and,————to write to ladies——

The Sporting Dictionary, and Rural Repository of General Information upon every Subject appertaining to the Sports of the Field. Inscribed to the Right Honourable the Earl of Sandwich, Master of His Majesty's Hounds. By William Taplin. 2 vols. 8vo. 1l. 1s. bds. Vernor and Hood. 1803.

THE author of these volumes appear to be of opinion with Dryden,

'Better to hunt the fields for health unbought,
'Than fee the doctor for a nauseous draught.'

Few can be more ready than ourselves to subscribe to the superiority of those pleasures which man in his first innocence exercised. They are, indeed, such as we have often lamented our inability to partake of, and we conceive that none can reasonably despise the sports of the field, who have health and money to enjoy them:—but every person must submit to his circumstances, and since a sedentary life has a little diminished the former qualification, and some peculiar exigencies have put the latter out of our power, we must be be content with recommending these same sports to others, delighting ourselves only with the visions of them.

The author of the present work has established a strong party by his former production. The name of Mr. Taplin is known by every Groom and Squire in the kingdom, and the acknowledgment of his merit accompanies it. What is the purport of his Sporting Dictionary we shall explain in an extract from his preface.

'The variety of publications annually announced under sporting titles, 'with which the contents, upon examination, are found so ill to accord, first 'suggested to the writer, the idea of forming an aggregate of information, from 'whence both entertainment and instruction to the young and unexperienced, 'might be derived. From a review of the works now extant, under titles 'nearly similar, it was found they were the productions of more than a

'century

'century past. These having been repeatedly recopied and repeatedly 'transmitted from one generation to another, are replete with matter nearly 'obsolete, and sports long since buried in oblivion.' We must here omit a little, as Mr. Taplin does not express himself clearly, and pass onward till he becomes intelligible.

To compensate the deficiency of the writers who have gone before him, says he, 'is the professed purport of the present work; calculated to recommend itself to public attention upon no other ground than its originality, 'and the great variety of useful information it will be found to contain. 'Numerous and diversified as the subjects are, they will be found largely 'treated on, and satisfactorily explained; not as has been too much the case 'in former publications, by the *effusions of literary fertility*, but clearly demonstrated upon the practical knowledge, and individual experience of 'the author; who disdaining the subservient trammels of imitation, has not 'presumed to enter into a proper disquisition on any sport or subject in 'which he has not been personally or principally engaged.'

We can readily believe him; Mr. Taplin has probably been a gamekeeper, and a *whipper-in*. We cannot avoid noticing that he lays it rather too *thick* upon himself; for this, however, as a writer at least, he may have an excuse at hand; it is a well known precept of the Peripateticks, that he may be excused for praising himself, whom no other will be tempted to praise.

In his account of cock-fighting—Mr. Taplin is very curious and original; for ourselves, we pretend not to be of the class of cock-fighters, for which inhuman sport, together with Bull-baiting, we have an insuperable aversion. But as some of our readers may belong to this fraternity, we here present them with an extract on the subject. Whenever a Cock-match is made between parties of respectability, and men of honour, the following agreement is drawn up and reciprocally entered into:—

Articles for a Cock-Match,

'Articles of agreement made the 1st of May, 1803, between A B of—— 'in the county of——on one part, and C D, of——in the county of——on 'the other:—First, the said parties mutually agree, that each shall produce 'shew, and weigh, at the Cock-pit Royal, in St. James's Park, on the first 'day of June next, beginning at the hour of six in the morning, *forty-one cocks*; 'none to weigh less than three pounds six, nor more than four pounds eight 'ounces; and as many of each parties' cocks as come within two ounces of 'the other parties, cocks hereby stand engaged to fight for *ten guineas* a 'battle; that is, five guineas each cock; in as equal divisions as the battles 'can be divided into (as pits or day's play) at the Cock-pit Royal, aforesaid; 'and that the parties' cocks who win the greatest number of main battles out 'of the number aforesaid, shall be entitled to the sum of *one hundred guineas* 'odd battle money.—And it is farther agreed that the sum is to be made 'stakes into the hands of E F. Esq.—in equal shares between the parties 'aforesaid, before the first pair of *cocks* are brought to the *pit*.—And the 'said parties further agree to produce, shew, and weigh, on the said day of 'weighing, *fifteen cocks* for by-battles, subject to the same weight as the 'main cocks before mentioned, and those to be added to the number of 'main cocks, unmatched; and as many of them as come within one ounce 'of each other, shall fight for two guineas a battle (that is one guinea each 'cock) to be as equally divided as can be, and added to each pit or day's play 'with the main of cocks: and it is also agreed, that the balance of the battle-'money shall be paid at the end of each pit or day's play; and to fight in 'fair reputed silver spurs, and with fair hackles; and to be subject to all the

usual

'usual rights of *cock-fighting*, as is practised in London and at Newmarket; 'and the prophet of the pit, or day's play, to be equally divided between the 'said parties, after all charges are paid and satisfied, that usually arise there-'upon. As witness our hands, this 1st day of May, 1803,

Witness. C. H. A. B.
C. D.

To the gentlemen of the turf, and, indeed, the whole fraternity of sportsmen, this book will be an acceptable treat.

A Chronological History of the Discoveries in the South Sea, or Pacific Ocean. Part. I. commencing with an account of the earliest discovery of that Sea by Europeans, and terminating with the Voyage of Sir Francis Drake, in 1579, *illustrated with charts. By James Burney, Captain in the Royal Navy.* 4to. 391 pp. Nichol, 1803.

IT has often been observed that writers, however eminent, when employed upon a bad subject, have not displayed the powers of genius and fancy with which we have been gratified in compositions more congenial to their talents. Candour, however, requires that these deficiences should be charged upon causes which it is not in their power to alter. He who, from necessity or other reasons, is condemned to write on subjects which he does not understand, cannot reasonably be expected to give much information; he comes unprepared to his task by study or meditation, assumes it unwillingly, proceeds in it without ardour, and generally quits it with disgust. This has frequently been the case of those who have written the voyages of our eminent navigators; they have not visited the scenes they are called to pourtray, but compile their descriptions from scanty journals, filled with every thing but what to intelligent readers is most important, and occupied for the most part with the shifting of the winds from north to south, and east to west, the variations of the tide, and the soundings of the sea. We are told, for instance, by those who are sent to discover to mankind another portion of their fellow creatures, who are expected to note the changes of manners and customs from the influence of climates and education, that on Tuesday at day-break the wind chopped in another quarter, and shifted about noon back again; that at evening a sail hove in sight, which they spoke, and found her to be a Dutchman, laden with salt herring; from whom they took in a plentiful supply of water, as their own had already parted with its freshness. The journal of the next day may contain intelligence of more importance; the eruption of the scurvey may induce the surgeon to physic the crew, and give each man half an ounce of magnesia with a grain of calomel; but the third day brings us into scenes of greater moment. New land is descried from the topmast head, at four A. M. and made at three P. M. The inhabitants were discovered to be black, and spoke a language that could not be comprehended; but seemed harmless and inoffensive, and willingly exchanged their gold dust for beads and ivory tooth combs. Here they caught some kids, which they stewed down into some savory broth, and the next day, the wind being favourable, bade adieu to the island.

This may with truth be said to be the tenour of the mariner's account of his own voyages; and a knowledge of his insufficiency has at length compelled him to entrust the relation of what he has seen to those who can write better than himself, and select with more judgment and conformity to the public taste. The reader need not be instructed what must be the event when an author is hired, perhaps by advertisement, to describe scenes which he has never beheld, and comment on men and manners, which he only knows by the imperfect relation of ignorant and unobserving men.

But if most of these gentlemen have been found incompetent to write their own voyages, there are still some who have been destined to a sea life, with talents which would have given lustre to any situation. Of this class is the present author; he is a man of judgment and learning, and highly qualified for the task in which he is engaged.

In the 13th number of our Register, in the review of the learned work of Dr. Clarke, we had to lament a good digest of maritime geography. The plan proposed by that writer we considered to be judicious, and feasible. To give a connected history of general hydography from the earliest periods down to the present time, to pursue it through the obscurity of dark ages, and the contradictions of numberless authors, was an undertaking of such stupenduous magnitude that it well deserved the patronage of the public. The present author does not, however, follow the track of Dr. Clarke.

Various methods have been attempted for reducing voyages in methodical order, but almost all are liable to some objection. To class them according to the discoveries of the several nations has been attempted, and found burdensome and unsatisfactory. To class them in order of time seems to be as the most regular arrangement, but Captain Burney is dissatisfied with it, and adopts another method.—We shall here give his own recommendation of his plan:—

'A method which seems to me to possess many, if not the greatest advantages, is that of classing the voyages according to some hydrographical division of the globe. This has been attempted, but in few instances with any tolerable degree of success. If the divisions have been judiciously allotted, they have not been strictly preserved. The same irregularity has prevailed in collections which consist wholly of republications, where it is difficult to imagine that any good reason could exist against an adherence to correct arrangements.' We are convinced this arrangement which the author has adopted is not without its inconveniences, but whether, in his choice of difficulties, he has not made a selection of the least embarrassed plan, we shall not take upon ourselves to declare. He proposes the following division, which he will probably prosecute if his first attempt succeeds with the public. As an extract from this portion of his work will best unfold his plan to our readers, we shall here submit one:—

'The first class may contain the voyages to the north of Europe; those in the north seas and those towards the north pole.

'The second, those along the west coast of Africa to the Cape of Good Hope; and the discoveries of the Atlantic Islands.

'The third, east from the Cape of Good Hope to China. Japan might have a section to itself, as a supplement to this class.

'The fourth might contain the whole of the discovery of the east side of America, except the straight of Magalhanes, and of Le Maire, which are more connected with the voyages to the south sea.

'The fifth class may comprehend the circumnavigations and voyages to the south sea, with those the discoveries on the west coast of North America are so much interwoven that they cannot without disadvantage be separated.

'The discoveries made by the Russians in the seas near Kamtschatka, and from thence to the north world, appear not improperly as a supplement to the fifth class.

'New Holland might form a sixth class. This country would naturally have divided itself between the third and fifth, had not its importance increased so much within the few last years that it now requires a distinct class for itself.

'The

'The foregoing division is offered as a sketch for a general plan The 'classes are capable of a modification, according to the convenience or 'inclination of those who may undertake any part of the task; and in each 'chronological order might with ease be preserved.

'An inconvenience to which the plan here suggested, may be liable is, 'the necessity of repetition which must sometimes occur. To place each 'particular of information in its respective class is the method most adapted 'to useful purposes; yet, the voyages must not be broken or disjointed; 'for, by such a process, too much of their interest must be sacrificed. 'Captain Cook's discovery of the east coast of New Holland could not be 'spared, either from the account of this voyage, or from a history of the 'discovery of New Holland, other similar instances must occur; but each 'repetition would bear a very small proportion to the whole. It might be 'necessary, however, in a compleat collection, when a voyage of any class 'contained information that also belonged and was material to another class, 'to make a transfer; substituting in lieu of the information transferred, a 'brief, but compleat abstract, with a referrence to the place where the 'fuller description was to be found.

'For instance, the island of Madeira is described in many voyages of a 'more distant class, all those descriptions might be collected and placed in 'regular order immediately following the account of Madeira; and in the 'part from which the description is taken the variancy might be supplied 'by an abstract and referrence, which as the instances belong exclusively 'to the narrative would leave no charm; the recapitulation so managed 'would occupy too small a space to attract notice; each class would be 'rendered entire, and the accounts of voyages would not sustain injury.

'It is a material advantage in regular arrangement, that affords encour-'agement and facility to such an undertaking. In a geographical division 'each class forms of itself a compleat head of discovery; and by being 'separately considered, the attention of the writer is contracted into one 'point.

'For the subject of the present work, I have chosen the discoveries made 'in south sea, to which my attention has been principally directed, from 'having sailed with that great discoverer, and excellent navigator, the late 'Capt. Cook; under whose command I served as Lieutenant in his two 'last voyages.'

It now remains that we should say something of the character of this author.

He who undertakes to reduce into better order and arrangement what before was almost wholly without it, must build his claim to reputation on producing a plan that removes the confusion and obscurities which are the causes of complaint. To compile is thus a task of judgment, and, perhaps, the most laborious of its operations.

It has been said that the brightest talent of a dull man was to abridge judiciously. But it is no reason, because the task is not that of original invention, that it should never be undertaken by any but such as were incapable of it. Some of our best writers have given us compilations, and, though a man can never raise any great fame upon this species of writing, they have notwithstanding added to theirs by the superiority of their labours.

Hawkesworth and Goldsmith were among the best compilers, and Capt. Burney does not rank among the worst. His style is accurate and neat, and, relinquishing elegance, he is content with perspicuity. His narrative is rapid and full, and dignified as the subject requires. The subject he has chosen is now in good plight with the public, and we are mistaken if he gains not a larger portion of deserved fame.

The Castle of the Tuileries; or, a Narrative of the Events which have taken place in the interior of that Palace, from the time of its construction to the 18th Brumaire in the year eight. Translated from the French, by Francis Lathom. 2 vols. 8vo. 14s. bds. Longman and Rees, 1803.

WE had occasion to notice this book in the original French, and at that time had no suspicion that it was in the hands of a translator.* Our opinion of it is not changed by meeting it in an English dress. It is a stupid collection of the most gross falsehoods, fabricated without ingenuity, and the translation is by no means the best part of it. But in order that we may furnish the reader with the means of judging for himself, we shall extract a kind of tale from this author, which he calls the 'Amours of Eugene and 'Adelaide.' He pretends to have found the original manuscript in the Castle of the Tuileries, and we shall here give an abridged specimen of it.

Eugene, held under Mesdames, a very lucrative situation which enabled him handsomely to support his family, and to partake freely of amusements. He was young but being tired of the monotonous pleasures of marriage, he encreased his acquaintance in the hope of meeting in society with some beauty who might have power to re-kindle the tender sensations in his heart. He was careful, however, to conceal from his wife his desire to be untrue to her.

In pursuing our story we will here give a specimen of the translator's elegance:—

"Nothing more strongly denotes the indifference of a husband to a wife, and wives know it very well, than for him to keep away from her bed!"—We are mistaken if this be not a species of *truism*; but what shall we say of the translation! Another specimen of the most consummate vulgarity, and we shall finish with Mr. Lathom, as the translator. 'If this lov-'ing wife felt uneasy, so as to utter any gentle complaints, Eugene threw 'the blame upon the times, which he said cost him much anxiety; and by 'this reply he brought himself off with his wife.' How many husbands have hid under the same pretence, their infidelity and foolish expences. But to our narrative,

It was at the fetes which were given upon the federation of Frenchmen that Eugene first saw Adelaide; he loved her, and she was not offended, nor was he discouraged because he found she was *married*. It appears that she received ten letters without answering one; at length she prevailed upon her herself to dispatch the following billet doux:—

"Sir, I know that I am doing wrong to write to you, and still more wrong "to grant you an interview; but a certain something, I know not what, "prompts me to listen to you, in spite of myself. However, to guard "me against you, and against myself, I shall make choice of a place "which must impose upon you the greatest reserve; so on Saturday, I "shall be at the church of Les Petits Peres, between twelve and one o'clock."

We are then told that the interview took place; the result of which is explained in a letter from Adelaide. It seems that something of the platonic kind was proposed between the two lovers, if we may judge from an extract of her letter, 'We are both, says she, connected with persons who 'are not of our own choice, our hearts are not united; our bodies only are 'engaged by the oath which we pronounced on our marriage. What 'should we gain by violating this oath, but the enjoyment of carnal pleasures 'with another. Let us then interchange, and unite our souls.'

We shall not contend whether any woman in the world would have written such a letter as this--that is not to our present purpose, we shall only relate that

* See Monthly Register Vol. 2 p. 239.

Eugene

Eugene accepted the proposal of uniting their hearts by an indissoluble vow before the altar, and the church of Les Petits Peres was chosen for the ceremony. To this church upon an appointed day, they came dressed for a wedding: a kind of magical ceremony now took place which shall be described in the author's own words:—

'Kneeling at the foot of the great altar they both drew blood from that 'part of the breast, where, the heart beats with the strongest pulsations. 'Eugene caught in a china saucer the blood of Adelaide, and his own; and 'after having mixed them together, he dipped in them a pen and wrote down 'the following vow, to which they each swore in their turns:—'*I swear* '*that my heart wishes only to enjoy such sensations as spring from the soul* (Adelaide). 'Eugene—*To which I promise fidelity, renouncing in our union every sensual enjoy-* '*ment.* A duplicate of his singular vow was drawn out, and signed by the 'contracting parties: a kiss sealed it—(but there was no sensuality in it.) 'Eugene took charge of the pen with which it was written, and after the 'rest of the blood was congealed, they each had a share of it, and dined 'together.' The author proceeds to inform us that the union was maintained in all its purity for one year, and broken off by a difference of opinion upon *state affairs.* 'Whether or not it is renewed again, he says, I am 'ignorant, all that I know is, they are still alive. The letters from which 'I have extracted this anecdote, and which I have returned to Eugene, 'would furnish a much more curious correspondence than any of our modern 'novels.'

We sincerely hope this trumped up correspondence may not come before the public! of all the monsters which the press produces, let us not be shocked with the exhibition of this!

'Adelaide, he continues, had much more sense than Eugene; her soul 'truly platonic, frequently gave birth to ideas of the most novel, and often 'sublime nature. I beg my readers will not consider this tale as the child 'of my imagination, but, as it really is, a most undoubted truth.'

We must candidly tell this author we do not believe a syllable of it; we will add likewise, for his information, what would have been the fate of his hero and heroine had they really existed, and lived in this country. They would both have been the subject of a criminal prosecution, and, in some reigns, would have been tried, convicted, and hanged, under the statute made against witchcraft.

Modern Geography. A description of the Empires, Kingdoms, States, and Colonies, with the Oceans, Seas, and Isles; in all parts of the world: including the most recent discoveries, and particular alterations. Digested on a new plan. By John Pinkerton. The Astronomical Introduction by the Rev. S. Vince, A. M. F. R. S. &c. &c. &c. Carefully abridged from the larger Work, in 2 volumes, 4*to. With Maps, drawn under the direction, and with the latest improvements, of Arrowsmith. To which is added, a Catalogue of the best Maps, and Books of Travels, and Voyages, in all Languages.* 1 vol. 8vo. 641 pp. 12s. bds. Cadell and Davies, 1803.

IT is unnecessary to waste our time upon canvassing the merits of geography as a science. The natural curiosity of man to know the fate of his fellows, and the history of the kingdoms which surround him, must necessarily direct him to this study with an ardent appetite of curiosity. But it has happened in geography, as in many other sciences, that a want of elementary books has retarded its progress in our schools, whilst a herd of incorrect compilations has spread among the younger classes a superficial smattering of a science, which having been erroneously learned at first, must be wholly recommenced upon a new, or relinquished altogether.

The

The most popular book for teaching the elements of geography and modern history, in our recollection, has been Guthries' grammar. This was, perhaps, estimable on many good grounds; but its excellences were of a comparative nature; it was certainly not the best we could have had, but contrasted with a great number, it was generally allowed to be superior to any of them. New editions of Guthries' work have been given almost yearly, but the most important discoveries have been omitted, or very faintly illustrated, and notwithstanding the immense increase of geographical knowledge within half a century, a person who reads Guthrie will be almost persuaded that we are as backward as ever. The great obstacle to the improvement of Guthrie in proportion to the advancement of geography, was certainly in the original design of the work itself. Discoveries were daily made by circumnavigators, the knowledge of climates, kingdoms, and other parts of the globe, was investigated, and placed upon certain foundations. In the new edition of this grammar it was necessary to subjoin these improvements,—But it was plain that to introduce them in a proper and connected manner, they must be embodied with the work, and not given as supplements and additions. This, however, required that the whole order of the book should be changed; that it should be taken to pieces, and the materials fitted together in a new manner. From a labour of this kind the editors naturally shrunk, but as it was incumbent on them to take some notice of the discovery of *half a continent*, new seas, and the political changes which made republics of monarchies, and monarchies of republics, they resolved to do it in so clumsy a manner, that they had better have omitted it altogether. They tagged to the end of their accounts of the several countries such revolutions as had happened since their last editions, and frequently committed themselves by the most palpable blunders and contradictions. An improvement of this nature would have been thus better provided for by a supplement of newspapers, or a file of gazettes.

But many of these geographical compilers thought it unnecessary even to do so much. By a kind of jealous enmity they wished to obscure our knowledge, of the world, and seemed persuaded, with the philosopher of Spain, 'that man is a loser by the discovery of his fellow creatures, and seeks in new 'climes only new scope for tyranny.' For these illustrious writers, in vain was the Pacific explored! For them a Perouse and Vancouver navigated the globe in vain! The researches of the Asiatic society, which diffuse a new radiance over Hisdostan and the east; the embassies to China, Tibet, and Avaa; the travels of Parke, a Brown, and a Barrow; the journies of a Hearne and a Mackenzie; the labours of a Vincent and a Rennell; all were equally slighted by them!

Geography being left thus imperfect and incorrect at a time when our discoveries had become more extensive, and our knowledge more accurate and consistent than at any other period, it was necessary that some one should undertake to reduce it into proper order, and supply the rising generation with the elements of a science, perhaps, the most essential in a liberal education. A task of this nature seems to have fallen into very able hands, and a very proper season has been chosen for it. 'No period of time, 'says the author, could be more favorable to the appearance of a new sys-'tem of geography, than the beginning of a new century, after the lapse of 'the eighteenth, which will be memorable in all ages,, from the gigantic 'progress of every science, and in particular of geographical information; 'nor less from the surprising changes which have taken place in most coun-'tries of Europe, and which of themselves render a new description indis-'pensible. Whole kingdoms have been annihilated; grand provinces 'transferred; and such a general alteration has taken place in states, and

'boundaries

'boundaries, that a geographical work published five years ago may be 'pronounced to be already antiquated. A new system of geography is 'also specially authorized and authenticated, by the singular advantage of 'several important books of travels having appeared within these few 'years, which introduces far more light and precision into the knowledge of 'many regions.

'Nor must the rapid advances of natural history be forgotten, which now 'confer such superior precision on the natural geography of most countries. 'Not only have zoology and botany received the greatest improvements; 'but geology and mineralogy have, within these twenty years, become en-'tirely new and grand sciences; the substances being accurately arranged 'and described with such clearness, that throughout the whole literary 'world they are exactly known and discriminated.' The author then expresses a hope that, with such advantages, of new and important discoveries, and recent authentic intelligence, the present work may at least be regarded as more free from defects than any system of modern geography. He assures us that, by the liberality of the publishers, no expense has been spared in collecting intelligence from all quarters. 'If there be any failure, he 'says, the blame must solely rest with the author; who being conversant 'with the subject from early youth, when he was accustomed to draw 'maps, while engaged in the study of history, and never having neglected 'his devotion to this important science, he hopes that the ample materials 'will be found not to have been entrusted to inadequate hands.'

It is certain that he is entitled to great praise from having endeavoured, by a brave defiance of expense, to make his work complete, by the most valuable and correct maps and charts, which money itself could not easily procure. He insists much on the novelty of his plan, and on this point chiefly are we inclined to differ from him. Originality in the design of a work is only so far commendable, as the novelty of the plan or execution has a tendency to make it answer, in a better manner, the aim of the author, and the wants of his readers. We applaud his design of gathering every thing together under distinct heads, of not jumbling ancient fable with modern history, or commercial documents with manners and diversions. But this division belonged to Guthrie, before him, and he can only lay claim to having followed the same track, and to have deviated without success. Geography, indeed, should be geography, but history is the vital part of geography; the description of the earth implies that of men and manners, not merely of the latitude and longitude in which kingdoms lye, the height of the mountains, and the breadth of the rivers and lakes. By confining himself, therefore, to subjects which he calls strictly geographical, the author spoils his work as a book of entertainment, and in that Guthrie has still the start of him. But it is fit his own reasons should be heard, 'Meagre details 'of history says he, can be of no service, even to youth, and are foreign to 'the name and nature of geography.' This we deny; the term, strictly defined, implies the history of the earth, and if he can connect zoology and mineralogy with geography, he surely may the history of men and women. When we say, we have read a history of Poland, we mean that we have read a history of the Poles.

It must be plain, therefore, to any one that a strict attention to the meaning of the word geography would not have enforced such an omission; and in respect to his, saying, that 'meagre details of history can be of no service 'to youth,' he should remember it is his own fault if they are *meagre*. His limits would require him to give short abstracts, but there would be room for judicious selection and observation, though it is probable his readers would be dissatisfied that there was not more of his historical parts.

Mr. Cox in his history of Poland and Russia has given an admirable specimen

cimen of judicious abridgment in what may be termed the epocha of those countries. The present author should have pursued the same plan, and his work would have been infinitely more entertaining, and, without extending his limits, to the full as useful.

The introduction is written by professor Vince, and the botanical part by Mr. Arthur Aikin.

For every thing here stated, references are made to the original authorities; this is an undoubted improvement upon other authors, though it gives the work more the character of a compilation.

An Historical and Political View of the Disorganization of Europe: wherein the Laws and Characters of Nations, and the Maritime and Commercial System of Great Britain, and other States, are vindicated against the Imputations and Revolutionary Proposals of M. Talleyrand, and M. Hauterive, Secretaries of State to the French Republic; by Thomas Brooke Clarke, L. L. D. 8vo. 208 pp. 5s. boards. Cadell and Davies, 1803.

THIS author is a man of great political discernment, and confutes with candour and moderation many of those principles which are attributed to M. Talleyrand and Hauterive, which are so immediately subversive of that order, so long the characterestic feature of European government, that if once admitted, every state must bow the neck to France, and contentedly truckle for a short lived freedom to this despot of the universe. The assertions of M. Talleyrand with respect to the independence of legislation, and the liberty of the press, are answered with great force and precision. Russia and Prussia are vindicated with much ingenuity from the charge of disorganization and revolution, which has been imputed to the former, from her example of conquest and lust of dominion, and to the latter, from the character of her military and financial system. France, however, is readily brought in guilty of views pernicious to the tranquillity of Europe. The general arguments of this author so fully meet our approbation, that we are pleased with this opportunity of recommending his book. His style is frequently, vigorous, but sometimes offends by an affected shortness, which is not very favourable to perspecuity, and very contrary to elegance. We can forgive him, however, for eccentricities, and make allowance for the zeal with which a favourite principle is pressed; where there is so little to object, we are above giving a diluted opinion of a meritorious work.

A Dissertation concerning the Writers of the Fourth Gospel. By the Rev. Mr. James M'Conochie. 117 p. 3s. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THIS essay presents a very vigorous display of acute argument and logical reasoning; but the writer is wrong in supposing that he has not trenched upon any article, either of doctrine or practice, in the established church. He has offended against many, but as a supporter of the Presbyterian mode of worship he is to be pardoned.

A new Anatomical Nomenclature. By John Barclay, M. D. 8vo. 182 pp. 5s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THE learned author of the present publication is sufficiently known to the world; he has long been employed as a lecturer on anatomy, and perceiving the want of a new Nomenclature, he has resolved to supply it himself. The present work chiefly comprehends the terms which are expressive of position

position and aspect in the animal system; and, as far as we have observed, is correct and copious.

A new Dictionary of Antient Geography. By Charles Pye. 8vo. 7s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THIS book is chiefly designed for the use of schools, and, for one improvement in particular, the author has a substantial claim to our recommendation. He has exhibited the modern in addition to the ancient names of places. Correctness is the chief merit in a work which mere industry may effect; and, as far as we have examined, this author is eminently cautious; we have tried him on many counts, and he has escaped conviction upon all.

The Depraved Husband and the Philosophic Wife. By Madame Genlis. 2 vols. 12mo. 6s. boards. Crosby. 1803.

IF this work be in reality Madame Genlis', we could have wished she had consulted us in the title; we would have advised her to have spared her second adjective, "*Philosophic* wife," as her first adjunct would have applied equally to both.

A plain Discourse on the Causes, Symptoms, Nature, and Cure of the prevailing Epidemical Disease, termed Influenza. By John Herdman, M. D. 8vo. 2s. Longman and Rees. 1803.

FROM the numerous pamphlets on this disease at the present period, we are inclined to think that its effects have extended further than the writers themselves imagine. May not this contagio scribendi, on a subject in a great degree imaginary, be a kind of mental disease itself. This author, however, has treated his subject with great learning; but the influenza, it is hoped, is gone over, and all the knowledge which is here displayed upon its causes and its cure will possibly be forgotten before its return.

A new History of Great Britain, from the Invasion of Julius Cæsar to the present Time; exhibiting to the Minds of Youth a Variety of instructive and pleasing Information, and some Particulars now first adapted to the Capacities of young People of both Sexes: the Whole calculated to operate as moral Lessons, while it contains every leading Trait of the History of England, on a Plan nearly similar to that of Dr. Henry. The second Edition, corrected and improved. By the Rev. John Adams, A. M. author of Lectiones Selectæ, Elements of Reading, &c. &c. common Paper, 4s. 6d. bound—fine, 6s. bound. Law.

THIS author has already obtained the favour of the public, and the attention he has bestowed upon this new edition of his work is not likely to alienate it. To smooth the progress of young students in the difficult road of history is a task which requires the most accomplished skill, and is too often undertaken without success. The relation is sufficiently general without being diffuse, and concise without obscurity: if Mr. Adams succeed as well in his projected abridgement of the Roman History, we shall, perhaps, soon be called upon to repeat our praise. The work is accompanied with a correct map; and sells extremely reasonable.

Geography and History; selected by a Lady, for the Use of her own Children. The fifth Edition, enlarged and illustrated with Maps. 4s. bound. Law.

THE extensive sale of this book, whatever be our own opinion, is at least an argument of the estimation in which the public hold it. Many

works, indeed, are approved which are entitled to no credit; but a general demand, and a flattering reception, are arguments of merit, which the critic must not presume to overthrow, without careful examination; but be ever more ready to confirm than disturb. Our sentiments on this work are in perfect agreement with public opinion. A delightful study is made easy and inviting by judicious arrangement, interesting narrative, and careful selection. The fair authoress deserves to rank high among those who are occupied in the more elevated and pleasing domestic duties, that of the education of young children. The work is neatly printed, and illustrated with several maps.

A Grammar of the French Tongue, founded upon the Decisions of the French Academy; wherein all the necessary Rules, Observations, and Examples are exhibited, in a Manner entirely new. By John Perrin. The Eleventh Edition, carefully revised by M. Tocquot, author of the Latin Scholar's Guide. 12mo. 3s. bound. Law.

THE instability of the French language, which caprice and fashion are constantly varying, is a strong argument why repeated improvements and additions should be made in grammars which teach a living tongue. He who writes a grammar of a dead language, if his arrangement and selection be but good, has finished his labour. His work is not liable to become obsolete, because the subject on which he writes is not fluctuating. But, in living languages, the same rule will not hold—a grammar of the French tongue, less than twenty years ago, would teach little that we wanted to know. Where idioms are daily multiplied, innovations permitted, and even the principles of grammar often contracted or dilated, new works are continually required, formed indeed on the basis of the old, but comprehending all modern improvements. No grammar has been in higher repute than Perrin's: we first learned French from it ourselves, and are glad to take this opportunity of being grateful to our old master, and recommending this improved edition of him to public patronage.

The Accidents; or, First Rudiments of English Grammar; designed for the Use of young Ladies. By Ellen Devis. The Eleventh Edition, 18mo. 1s. 6d. bound. Law.

THIS book, designed for the use of young ladies, will qualify them, if they strictly attend to it, to speak more correctly and grammatically than they generally do. It is simple and intelligible, as all elementary books should be; and teaches, without ostentation, that in which it is unpardonable to be deficient.

Lives of the Ancient Philosophers; translated from the French; illustrated with Notes, and preceded by a Life of Fenelon. By John Cormack, A. M. 2 vol. 12mo. 8s. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THIS is a translation from the work of the amiable and pious Fenelon; what more can be said in its praise? The life of Fenelon which is prefixed to it, had it a little less pomp and stiffness, would rank as a classical composition. How this book has escaped translation so long we do not know. When the French press is so narrowly watched, and all the absurdities and impieties with which it teems exhibited in an English dress, it is somewhat strange that this useful and religious work should have escaped.—It was possibly on account of the virtuous principles and superior morality it inculcates.

Official

Clifton Grove. A Sketch, in Verse; with other Poems. By Henry Kirke White, of Nottingham. 8vo. 110 pp. Vernor and Hood. 1803.

THE author of the following poems, we are informed, is only seventeen years of age, and has dedicated his time to the Muses from a very early period of life; his time, we can assure him, has not been mispent; he has a claim to rank high among the versifiers of the age; and in simplicity, chastity, and tenderness, is superior to a great many. His ode "*To my Lyre,*" considered as the production of a boy, is entitled to considerable praise.

Official Papers relative to the Preliminaries of London and the Treaty of Amiens. Publlshed at Paris by the Authority of the French Government. 8vo. 111 pp. 3s. 6d. stitched. Debrett. 1803.

WE need make no comment upon this publication; we know the light in which the French wish to view the Treaty of Amiens, as excluding England from the Continent. This paramount right, of interference for others, and maintaining her own equilibrium in the balance of Europe, England could never sacrifice; it was a duty of political obligation, and as certain and binding as any in the code of morals.

Sermons on various Subjects and Occasions. By the Rev. George Somers Clarke, B. D. 8vo. 188 pp. Hurst. 1803.

THESE sermons, which have a kind of mediocrity of merit, are dedicated to Mr. Addington, whom the author styles, in his title page, Britanniarum Pacificator. We are afraid he was not in the minister's confidence, who might otherwise have informed, that this title, like that of the Lord Mayor's, would only last through the year.

Select Criminal Trials, at Justice-Hall, in the Old Bailey. 8vo. 500 pp. 5s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THIS is one of the most barefaced catchpennies of the day. We have once more the trials of Dr. Dodd, Hackman, and Mrs. Rudd, in the same shape in which they may be seen in every newspaper and magazine of the time when they occurred. It is nothing more than a pillage of the Newgate calendar, and we have some doubts whether the proprietors of that useful work might not obtain an injunction to stop the sale.

The Sacred Mirror; or, Compendious View of Scripture History. By the Rev. Thomas Smith. 12mo. 300 pp. 4s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THIS very useful and instructive work is written in a strain of piety so rational and sincere, and comprehends objects of such important interest to every religious mind, that it merits our warmest approbation. Children, whose parents are mindful of the first duty towards them, should be initiated into gospel history by means of a book of this description, which will at once give them a full and correct knowledge, and fortify their minds with the best of all principles.

FRENCH BOOKS.

Voyage en Piemont: Travels in Piedmont, containing a description, topographical and picturesque, statistical and historical of the departments of that country; illustrated with six maps and eight plates. By J. B. J. Breton and Louis Brion, sen. and jun. 8vo. 7 fr. 50c.

THIS tour in Piedmont, is the production of two writers as active in collecting the different facts calculated to make the public acquainted with this new portion of France, as they are capable of exhibiting them in a methodical point of view. The reader may here traverse all the departments into which Piedmont is divided. They not only describe the climate and physical part of each, but likewise treat of the various towns, their population, their industry, the different circumstances of their establishment, the rivers, in a word, whatever is most curious and important to be known concerning Piedmont.

As the work is divided into departments, we wish our limits would admit of a notice on all the important subjects contained in each. But we are obliged to confine ourselves to three of them, the Doria, the Sesia and Marengo.

The authors commence with a discussion on the advantages possessed by agricultural over commercial countries: a question not difficult to decide. These advantages, however, are most frequently united in the same country, and constitute its prosperity.

Following the travellers into the department of the Doria, they begin with describing the varied spectacle which presents itself to the observer who visits Piedmont for the first time. What striking objects he must contemplate before he arrives there! But when he reaches the interior of the country, he alternately enjoys the view of wild scenery, or smiling fields; here he admires the glaciers white with eternal ice and snows: lower down he perceives black forests of fir, larch and other trees congenial with the climate. To this zone succeeds another less gloomy, composed of chesnut, oak and other large trees. Lastly, at the foot of these mountains he discovers the effects of a milder temperature, a soil more susceptible of the efforts of industry, and more capable of rewarding the labors of the husbandman. This cheering spectacle prepares him for the sight of the neighbouring vallies of Liguria, where the orange and the olive grow spontaneously.

There are in Italy two rivers called Doria. The Doria Baltea, the most considerable of the two, rises in the Alps near the Little St. Bernard; the other, the Doria Ripuavia or Little Doria, takes its source at the foot of Mont Genevre and discharges itself into the Po, at some distance from Turin. The former gives name to the department which it divides into two nearly equal parts. The surface of this country, even in the districts ajacent to the Po, is full of inequalities and eminences, but it is particularly on the north side of the Valle d'Aosta that the mountains rise one upon the other. It appears as if Mount Blanc, St. Bernard, and the other lofty mountains in the chain of the Alps had been convulsed at some remote period of antiquity, and that mountains comparatively smaller had been formed from their ruins. It is at least in conformity with this hypothesis that certain geologists have given the appellation of primitive mountains to those whose mass is formed of granit, porphyry, and other substances compounded principally of quartz; and secondary mountains to those composed of sand, gravel, calcareous and argillaceous strata, flints, marble, calcareous stones, shells, &c. and which have been slowly formed of particles washed away by the rains and torrents, and of marine substances.

We shall not follow the authors of the description of these districts, through the account they give of the majestic appearance of the Alps, of the glaciers and the meteors visible in these elevated situations. We recommend these

details as highly interesting to all those who love to peruse what may remind them of the grand traits in the spectacle of nature. These beauties are succeeded by an account of the establishment of the convent of Mont St. Bernard, the passage of the French troops over that mountain in the year 8; and at last they conduct us among the monuments left by the Romans in this country at the siege and taking of Bard. The town of Bard and its castle were then considered the impregnable rampart of the Valle d'Aosta. The mountains approach here so near together, that the Doria can scarcely find a passage between them. The road by its side has been with great labor excavated out of the rock, and it appears as if a few pieces of artillery would be capable of defending it against the most numerous armies.

At some distance from the town of Donax, between Aosta and Ivrea, is an admirable chef d'œuvre of its kind, the author of which is unknown. It consists of an arch cut in the solid rock; it is twelve feet wide, and may be passed through not only on foot and on horseback, but deep ruts, worn in the rock, prove that even carriages formerly went through it. What is, perhaps, most worthy of admiration, is the benevolent attention of those who opened this road. Not contented with levelling and rendering it passable, they likewise wished to spare the traveller the terror that might be produced by the sight of the precipices over which the high road is, as it were, suspended; therefore, on the side towards the river which waters the bottom of this abyss, they have left a parapet breast high, and a foot and a half thick. The other side of the road is bordered with a high wall, of hard black rocks, cut vertically, with such address, that it is difficult to conceive how it was possible to execute such a vast undertaking, at a time when gun-powder was unknown, which now serves to facilitate works of this kind.

In treating of the department of the Sesia, the authors begin by considering the causes of the humidity of Italy and Piedmont. If we take a survey of the whole surface of Italy, we shall see that at least two thirds of it are composed of mountains or hills; that two seas wash its coasts; that the part which joins the continent is surrounded by the Alps; that the Appenines traverse it longitudinally, and their ramifications extend in every direction. By all these circumstances humidity is so far promoted, that the quantity of rain which falls there annually, exceeds by one third that which falls in the interior provinces of France. Thus Piedmont, which is in a manner enclosed by the Pennine, Grecian, and Cottian Alps, and the chain of the Appenines, which, towards Lombardy, is surrounded by large lakes, and is intersected by rivers and canals, must come in for a large portion as its share.

It is in consequence of the abundance of running waters that canals for watering the country have been constructed, and the cultivation of rice has been adopted: on these subjects the authors present the most interesting details. To these succeeds an account of the different establishments in the towns, their public buildings, their industry, &c. and all these subjects are treated in a manner highly interesting.

The same observations apply to the description of the department of Marengo, which the authors commence with general reflections on the river Po. It appears, that in ancient times, this river was considerably wider towards its mouth than at present: collections of slime, which are daily increasing, are formed in the vicinity of Comacchio, Reno, and other places, both in the Venetian states and in the Ferrarese, where it discharges itself into the Adriatic sea by several channels. The sand, stones, and mud, which it carries along in its course, are continually raising its bed and forming stagnant ponds and marshes. The two principal branches are the Primaro and Volarno. There is every reason to believe that they originally formed

formed but one, and that then the denomination of King of Rivers was much more justly applied. If at that period the inhabitants of this country had understood the art of confining rivers within their channels, by vast dykes, moles, &c. the mouth of the Eridanus might have formed a superb port in the gulf of Venice. Opulent towns would have crowded a flourishing soil, but it is now probably too late to correct the disadvantages arising from its present state.

Though the effects of inundations are neither so frequent nor so destructive in this department as in the lower parts of Lombardy, yet the overflowing of the Po is sometimes productive of considerable injury. In many places are seen spots usurped by the river, on which grow thick groves of tufted willows, whose silvery foliage would refresh the sight, were it not for the reflection that those trees occupy a fertile soil, where rich harvests would reward the labour of the husbandman, and where numerous herds would find abundant pasture.

As nature never caused an evil without placing a certain advantage beside it, we shall here observe, that the excellent pasturage in the vicinity of Turin is highly favourable to the breeding of cattle, and that the climate is best suited to pigs in particular of all domestic animals. Roving at liberty through the vast pastures which surround the farm-houses, they every where find muddy pools, in which those animals take such delight. As they meet with no obstacles to indulging in their favorite mode of life, this doubtless contributes considerably to render their flesh more delicate. Turin hams are almost as famous in Italy as Westphalia or Bayonne hams.

On the celebrated battle of Marengo the authors express themselves in the following manner:—

'Here, on 25 Prairial, in the year 8, (14 June, 1800) was irrevocably 'destroyed the fruit of Suwarrow's exploits; here was destroyed the fruit 'of a long and fatiguing campaign in the State of Genoa, and of the cap-'ture of that important place; the surrender of which, if it had taken place '24 hours sooner or later, would have doubtless caused a considerable dif-'ference in the results of the battle of Marengo. If victory remained for 'some time uncertain, if the check received by the army was repaired only 'by the reserve, what must have been the consequence if the Imperialists 'had had time to concentrate their forces and to withdraw the troops that 'remained before Genoa? On what events sometimes depends the fate of 'empires!'

In the article on the department of the Po, the travellers have collected the principal facts which led to the union of Piedmont with France; they give an idea of the former administration of the dukes of Savoy, and of the different embellishments made by them in the city of Turin and its vicinity, of which they have given some good views.

Into the account of the department of the Stura they have introduced particulars relative to the Vaudois, the conduct of the inhabitants of the vallies at the time of the conquests of Suwarrow, the valley of Chateau-Dauphin, the sources of the Po, the glaciers of the Alps, the rivers of Grana and Maria, the Val de la Pezio, the cheese called Rubiola. The whole is terminated by a general survey of Piedmont, which the travellers consider capable of producing so great an abundance of all kinds of articles, of the first necessity, that with very little encouragement, useful establishments may be expected to be formed, and those which already exist to flourish and prosper.

Histoire Medicale de l'Armée Francaise á Saint Domingue en l'an 10. Medical History of the French Army at St. Domingo in the year 10, (1802.) By Dr. Gilbert, Physician in chief of that Army. 8vo. 1fr. 25c.

Dr.

Dr. Gilbert's work comprehends a sketch of the medical topography of the colony of St. Domingo, and the history of the yellow fever. That disease is a tribute paid by most Europeans not inured to the climate: it proceeds from accidental causes, which may be foreseen and mitigated. It rages between the tropics like any other fever of a dangerous nature, which breaks out, rages, and disappears in Europe, among armies, in besieged places, hospitals, and prisons. The last epidemical disease in the Antilles committed ravages to which those islands will no longer be exposed, when suitable methods shall be adopted to prevent their recurrence.

Upon the arrival of the squadron on which there had been but few sick during the passage, the town of the Cape was burned, the troops were placed amidst the most infectious ruins: two hospitals of the town, which had been plundered and partly burned, were, however, in eight days, with very great exertions, in a state to receive a thousand or twelve hundred sick. As their number increased, additional places were provided for their reception. Many houses, advantageously situated among the mountains, were used for this purpose, and a hospital for twelve hundred sick established at St. Nicola Mole, which appeared to be most healthy of any.

The physician in chief began by publishing an instruction relative to the diseases of the climate. A few extracts from it are introduced into the topographical sketch which forms part of the present publication: a knowledge of the local situation should always precede and direct the study of diseases. Under the burning sun of the tropics the solids are relaxed; the muscular power is diminished, the digestive organs are enfeebled, the humours that are least animalized bear more evident characteristics of carbonisation, and of a kind of combustion; from the violence of the heat, bilious affections predominate, the nervous system is irritated, the soul is inflamed, and the imagination is exalted. All these physical and moral derangements result from the influence of hot climates, under a vertical sun, every where in the vicinity of the equator,

The particulars relative to the geographical position of St. Domingo, the heat moderated by the sea breezes, the alteration of seasons marked by the rains, the nature of the soil, the quarries, mines, rivers, waters fit for drinking, mineral springs, botanical productions, and state of the atmosphere common to the same latitudes, compose, from the pen of Dr. Gilbert, a most accurate sketch of Medical Topography. He then treats of the annual diseases, gives general directions for their treatment, adding the indigenous remedies that may be substituted for exotic.

The first diseases that appeared in the army, after its disembarkation, were principally occasioned by intemperance; the soldiers made immoderately free with spirituous liquors or fruits, which, if properly selected and taken in moderation, would have been wholesome. In consequence of the campaign in the month of Ventose, when the theatre of war was transferred to the interior of the island, at a distance from the towns and fortified posts, the number of sick brought to the Cape increased daily, and the hospitals being annoyed by frequent incursions of the enemy, mental distress contributed to render the diseases more dangerous.

At the end of Germinal the yellow fever began to appear; its progress was rapid, on account of the burning drought of the season. Before entering on this subject, the historian gives a statement of thirteen observations; a comparison of their details, shews, in a more uniform and precise manner, the principal characteristics of the disease. In its first stage it is attended with excessive head-ache, a strong quick pulse, extreme weakness, sudden nausea and vomitings, pains in the abdomen, symptomatic diarrhæa, with increased prostation of the glands; death ensues at farthest from the fifth to the seventh, frequently before the third day, and is preceded by an univer-

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sal yellowness, suppression of urine, inequality of the pulse, hemorrhages, and that deceitful tranquillity indicative of mortification. Hopes of saving the patient are entertained from a remission of the symptoms, and if he survives into the second week: recovery is always difficult, and not without danger of a fatal relapse.

In the course of Prairial, the disease extending its ravages, attacking all ranks and classes indiscriminately, and resisting every kind of application, an order was given for a general meeting of all the army surgeons residing at the Cape, and its vicinity, together with those of the town and adjacent places, to confer on the subject, and the physician in chief proposed the following questions:—1. History and progress of the yellow fever. 2. General, particular, and local causes. 3. Nature and nosological classification. 4. Diagnostics. 5. Crises and prognostics. 6. Preventives; method of cure in its different stages. 7. Treatment usual in the country. 8. The utility of bleeding, emetics, purgatives, quinquina, camphor, and blisters. 9. Contagion and supposed pestilential character of the yellow fever. 10. Comparison of the diseases of the same nature which have ever prevailed at the Cape, and in the colony, or that have ravaged other countries. 11. Means proper for stopping its progress, or for preventing the recurrence of the disease.

From the discussions on these questions, M. Gilbert has been enabled to draw up, article by article, the most circumstantial report that can be obtained on the epidemical disease which prevailed in the French army at St. Domingo. The year 10 was remarkable for long and excessive heat and drought. These circumstances must have powerfully contributed to the re-appearance of the yellow fever; the air, heated to such a high degree, acted on mephitic substances, and produced miasmata, destructive of the vital principle.

At St. Domingo and Guadaloupe, as well as at Philadelphia, and on all the sea-coasts subject to the yellow fever, this disease is less common, and more easy of cure in the more elevated situations, which enjoy a pure air, and are at a distance from marshes and lagoons. At the Cape all the causes of this destructive infection were accumulated in the ruins of the conflagration. Such a disaster required to be repaired as speedily as possible. What the hand of man, and judicious regulations, may have begun, must be seconded by the change of seasons. The rainy season must correct the deleterious exhalations, and they must be swept away by powerful breezes. 'Then,' adds the author, 'the yellow fever, which rages irresistibly, from 'Floreal to Brumaire, gradually loses the character which distinguished 'it during summer, while on the other hand, the Europeans, who escape 'the cruel scourge, every day become more inured to the climate.'

The example given by M. Gilbert, M. Desgenettes, &c. we hope, for the sake of humanity, to see followed in future by the physicians of our own country. At every period of the late war, and in every situation where our gallant soldiers had to struggle with the physical evils, inseparable from a military life, abundant materials must have presented themselves for a journal of observations or medical history. The utility of works of this nature cannot require any comment.

Annuaire de la Librairie: Annals of Literature, by Guillaume Fleischer. First Year, 2 vols. 8vo. 9 fr.

The Editors of the *Jena Allgemeine Literatur Zeitung*, which is considered the best literary journal of the day, have undertaken to fulfil, in its utmost extent, the duty of literary journalists, by making known all the productions of the presses of every nation. They have already published an account of those

those from 1785 to 1790, and from 1790 to 1795, each period forming three large quarto volumes, under the title of *General Repertory of Literature.* The number of articles comprised in those volumes is about 70,000, which proves that the editors have not selected such as appeared most interesting, but have introduced every thing that has been printed.

Two things were necessary for the execution of this undertaking, a bibliographic system, according to which all the articles might be classed readily and without confusion; and great patience. The perseverance, as well as the erudition of German writers, are too well known for this work to excite surprise, on account of the labour it required. Therefore the bibliographic system established by them is the only object of curiosity. Fleischer thinks it perfect. Others consider that of M. Daunou much superior. It has been developed by him before the National Institute in several memoirs, in which he has discussed, analysed, and given an opinion of all the known systems of bibliography.

The following is the general result of the Repertory of Literature, by the Jena literati.:—

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1. General Literature	68	67
2. Philology	1527	1676
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16. Miscellanies	689	646
Total	27372	31603

To the above must be added the sub-articles marked by letters of the alphabet and which are very numerous, encreasing the total of both amounts to 70,000 articles. This abundance of literary productions renders it more necessary to establish a methodical arrangement amongst them.

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pear capable of doing, nor has he attempted it. His criticisms are therefore the part of his annals the least to be depended upon. The Jena literati, consulted above 70 journals for their Repertory, and certainly they had not so much reason to be diffident of themselves as M. Fleischer. But in thus pointing out the imperfections of his work, we cannot but admit that it may be of considerable utility to men of letters and booksellers, and on these grounds we hope it will be continued.

Histoire naturelle de la Peau et de ses rapports avec la santé et la beauté du corps: Natural history of the skin and of its connection with the health and beauty of the body. By B. Banau. 8vo. with plates. 6 fr.

CUTANEOUS diseases are so common, and are productive of such bad consequences when a humor which appears on the skin strikes in again, that the public must be under considerable obligations to this author for having particularly directed his attention to this kind of disease.

He first treats in a physiological manner, of all that is commonly comprised under the denomination of skin. It was certainly necessary to afford an accurate idea of the nature of the seat of the disease before he described the different species of it, and before he pointed out the different methods of treatment to be employed in its cure. His observations on cutaneous diseases and the nature of the remedies that ought to be applied are very numerous, and all founded on experience. Most of them were discovered by men celebrated in the healing art both in France and other countries.

Histoire de Gustave Vasa; History of Gustavus Vasa, king of Sweden. By M. von Archenholtz. Translated from the German, by J. F. G. Propiac. 2 vols. 8vo.

PREVIOUS to the work of M. Archenholtz, Gustavus Vasa who effected such important changes in Sweden, in the religion of the country, the form of government and the civilization of the inhabitants was little known, excepting from the picture drawn by the Abbé Vertot, with the ability for which he is celebrated; but the great events that Gustavus brought about by his genius are very rapidly detailed. M. Archenholtz, has given them all the development of which they were susceptible; but in writing this work he had to surmount great difficulties occasioned principally by the vacancies in the historic documents of Sweden. The history of Gustavus is preceded by a very able sketch of the manners, customs, and religion of the Swedes, which greatly elucidates the events of that prince's reign.

Moyens d'amelioration et de restauration, &c. Improvements proposed to the Government and the Inhabitants of the Colonies, or Miscellanies political, economical, agricultural, commercial, &c. relative to the Colonies, by M. Charpentier Cossigny,

NOW that France is to be curtailed of most of her colonies, by the rupture with this country, it seems an object of weighty concern with her to improve the condition of the few that remain. To the east she can no longer look forward; the incurable jealousy of the English will drive her from every settlement; but in the West Indies, particularly in St. Domingo, there is ample room for her exertions, and good policy seems only wanting to improve what fortune has put into her hands. The general advice which this author gives on the subject, is deserving of attention; it has the merit of being adapted to the circumstances of the country, and comes from a man who has well considered his object.

The

The execution of the book perfectly accords with its title, which announces it as a work capable of promoting the prosperity of the colonies. The author commences with observations on the two works of Moreau de St. Mery, and examines their principles, compares the colonies of the West with those of the East Indies. His criticism is just, his assertions tempered with moderation, and his statements are grounded on matters of fact, rather than on his opinions, and his work will doubtless be read with advantage by the inhabitants of the colonies, as well as those who have possessions there. M. Cossigny has been much abroad, and wherever he has travelled he has been accompanied by an ardent desire to do good. With this view he has collected a vast fund of knowledge, and the results of numerous experiments. He now opens his stores for the benefit of the public, whose interest it is to turn them to advantage. As it is not possible to give any thing like an analytical extract, we shall confine ourselves to a few geographical facts, which may serve to rectify the errors of various works with which the public are well acquainted.

The island of Quiloa on the east coast of Africa, situated in 8 deg. 15 min. S. L. about half a league from the Continent, opposite a peninsula formed by the conflux of two great rivers, contains three vast, secure harbours, which afford good anchorage for vessels. This Island is about 10 or 12 leagues in length, by 5 or 6 in breadth. It is inhabited by Moors and Africans. The harbour between the island and the mainland is safe and capacious. The mouths of the two rivers are very wide and deep, and their banks covered with trees of immense magnitude. At various distances are situated villages of natives, who acknowledge the authority of the king of Quiloa. This region is never visited by hurricanes, nor even by storms. The climate is healthy and the soil of the continent fertile: it produces a species of the *teck* wood, as durable as that of Surat, and fit for the purposes of ship-building. The sugar-cane, the cotton tree, the indigo plant, grow spontaneously, and the country is covered with numerous flocks and herds. About 15 leagues to the north east of Quiloa is an island called Monzia, which is uninhabited by man, but contains large herds of wild oxen, and is frequented by the Moors and Africans for the sake of hunting them. The ordinary food of these people is honey, which the natives raise in great abundance. Rice and maize might very easily be naturalized.

Quiloa is the mart for slaves of the whole coast of Zanguebar. The king is always an African, but the Moors by an amicable agreement made between the two parties, are admitted to a considerable share of authority. The Visir, whom they call *Malindane*, is always a Moor, and governs the country in the name of sovereign.

The author is of opinion that the French government should form a settlement at Quiloa: he urges very cogent reasons in support of it, some of which we shall state as concisely as possible.

1. Quiloa, is as it were, in the way of vessels going to India. It lies more convenient to the Red sea, the Persian gulf, the coasts of Malabar and Coromandel, and even of Bengal than the Isle of France.

2. Quiloa is the mart of the African coast for slaves; the passage from the isle of France to Quiloa is performed in favourable weather in 12 or 15 days, and when unfavourable in 30 or 40; and the passage back in about 40 days.

3. Ivory is the production of the east coast, and finds a ready market in India, China, and Europe.

4. Quiloa is capable of furnishing abundance of provisions for the Isles of France, Bourbon and Sechelles in case of necessity.

5. The sugar and coffee of the isle of France would find an advantageous market there.

6. The commerce in those articles would be encreased by the vicinity of the island to Melinda, Monbaza, Mascat, Surat, &c.

Many other details of equal interest will be found in this excellent work.

RUSSIAN.

Puteschestwie w poludennuju Rossiu: Travels through the South of Russia. In Letters. Edited by Wladimir Ismailow. 2 vols. 8vo.

M. ISMAILOW, a young Russian nobleman, who in the title announces himself only as the editor of the work, but is actually the author of it, affords a good example to his countrymen, which, if followed, would throw a clearer light upon many of the yet unknown provinces of the immense Russian empire. For though many rich and intelligent Russians travel into foreign countries, particularly Germany and France, yet there are few who visit their own country with a view to obtain a more perfect acquaintance with its moral and physical state. The author, therefore, boasts in his preface, that he has given the first example of this kind, and this is the fact, if we except Sumarakow; for the travels of the Academicians cannot, with propriety, come under this class, as they were not undertaken from inclination, but by the imperial command, and besides, most of these travellers were foreigners.

Mr. I. announces himself as a sentimental traveller. 'I traverse,' says he, p. 7, 'the most charming countries on foot, walk about in the groves, 'climb the mountains, ramble through the vallies, and endeavour to im-'part the vivacity of my sensations to all nature. I point out every new 'discovery to my people, embrace them, and ask:—Do you see the lim-'pid current of yon undulating brook? do you hear the nightingale's de-'lightful note? do you feel how my heart beats with tender emotion.' Again, p. 9.

'I frequently go, attended only by my faithful dog, through towns and 'villages. A happy family, a loving pair, a shepherd disclosing to nature 'the secrets of his heart, a dance of country girls, a group of children, a 'smile, a look of sensibility, nothing escapes my observation.' After such a declaration, the reader would certainly expect sentimental whinings on fields and meadows, mountains and vales, the innocence of a country life, and handsome girls, interspersed with anecdotes of returned or disappointed love; and, in fact, there is enough of them in these letters. But, amidst these ebullitions of sensibility, which, with the exception of a few instances, are rendered more tolerable by vivacity and unaffected simplicity, we meet with many interesting notices, which will certainly be acceptable to foreigners, who possess so little information on the present state of single towns and places in the interior of Russia. We shall, therefore, notice the most interesting parts of these travels, particularly as they have not yet been translated into any other language.

The author, upon leaving Moscow, proceeds by way of Serpuchow to Tula, where he visits the manufactory of fire-arms. Eighteen large wheels are worked by water, and put the various hammers, bellows, and other machinery in motion. He then goes to see the workshops of a German, who makes mathematical instruments, electrical machines, &c. It were to be wished that he had given more details of those establishments, for the manufactory of fire-arms, as well as workshops of M. Dowig (the name of the German artist, but not mentioned by the author), deserve a more full and particular description.—The principal buildings at Tula are the theatre, the office of the government, the foundling hospital, the house of correction, &c. The castle, or fortress, was built by Iwan Wassiljewitsch, and repaired by Catherine II. The situation of Tula, in a valley (more properly on the declivity of two eminences), is particularly pleasant, as there is a prospect from it on every side, over verdant meadows and hills. The principal church is richly ornamented. The author omits to mention the arsenal, which is not only one of the most extensive edifices in Tula,

but is also remarkable for the vast quantity of arms preserved there, and which are mostly of the manufacture of the place.

Orel, the second town of note which the author passes through, is tolerably large, but very ill built. The school-house is one of its handsomest buildings. Kursk has a romantic situation, partly on a high mountain, at the foot of which runs the river Auskar. It is better built than Orel. Its finest buildings are the custom-house, the imperial palace, the office of the government, the convent of Snamen, and the school-house, to which belong a library and a cabinet of natural history.

In Little Russia, which the author now enters, he finds the country people more cleanly, better lodged, and apparently in easier circumstances, than the other Russian peasantry. The peasants of Little Russia bestow little attention upon agriculture; the greater part of the land is divided between meadow and pasturage, for their numerous herds, particularly of horned cattle. The manners of the inhabitants are simple, and uncorrupted. Conjugal fidelity is inviolably preserved. But the young unmarried women are free in their behaviour, and, according to the author's expression, almost all of them are like Levaillant's Narina. The men shave their beards (the peasants of Great Russia, on the contrary, suffer the beard to grow), and part of the fore-head. They have in general a sensible look, and appear to have a relish for nature and her beauties; for their villages, almost without exception, are delightfully situated. Each of them has a favorite sheep in his flock. There are few that are not fond of music. The instrument for which they manifest the greatest predilection is the fiddle.

Kiew appears to great advantage at a distance. The Dnieper, the alternation of hill and dale, and the numerous steeples of the churches and convents, produce a striking effect, but which gradually diminishes as you approach; you then find wretched wooden houses, narrow unpaved streets, in no respect superior to a common village. Kiew is visited by multitudes of pilgrims, who flock hither from all parts of Russia. Their number amounts every summer to 60,000. In the convent of Petschersk, which comprehends several churches within its limits, the richest and most magnificent is that dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Field Marshal Romanzow is buried in it. The catacombs, which contain above 100 undecayed bodies, and, amongst others, that of Nestor, the historian, are not formed of stone, but are merely an excavation in the earth. In the church of St. Sophia, in the dome over the altar, is a beautiful piece of mosaic work, representing the Holy Virgin, with the apostles and evangelists; and at the entrance, an admirable painting of the birth of Christ, said to be a copy of an Italian picture. Of the other churches of Kiew, which are mostly richly and magnificently ornamented, the most distinguished for internal and external splendor, is that of St. Michael. The author was present at the disputations of the academy, the ecclesiastical seminary. The theses which he mentions, are on philosophical subjects, but are chargeable with something of pedantry. The library of the academy contained, formerly, many valuable manuscripts, but they were consumed in a conflagration. The manners of the inhabitants of Kiew are simple and patriarchal. A certain piety is common to all ranks and ages. The churches are diligently attended. But the nobility begin to imitate the example of the capitals, in their behaviour and mode of life, and the promenade in the imperial garden, which the author visited, appears to be a perfect copy of Petersburg, or Moskau.

Perejaslaw is the birth place of Cheraskow, the author of a poem called the Rosciad. A few wersts from this town stands a chapel, on the spot where Bovis and Gleb were murdered, by command of their brother Jaropolk.

ropolk. Poltawa furnishes the author with an occasion to call to mind one of the most important epochs of the Russian history. He intersperses throughout frequent references to the ancient state of Russia, and the history of his native country, which form an agreeable variety. In memory of the decisive victory near Poltowa, a pyramid has been erected in the town; but this monument, which stands in a narrow street, and is already nodding to its fall, is not worthy of the magnitude of the event. The field of battle is near the village of Semenowka. The situation of Poltawa is very fine. It is inhabited by Kosacks, natives of Little Russia and Jews. On the *Steppe*, between Krementschuk and Cherson, the author was overtaken by a storm, which he describes as very terrible. He there saw the locusts, which in that year (1799) committed great ravages in those countries, as related in Sumarakow's travels.

Eight wersts from the town of Cherson, a lofty obelisk, of white stone, points out the spot where the celebrated Howard is interred. Cherson is upon the whole well built, and tolerably populous. The inhabitants consist, besides Russians, of Poles, Germans, French, English, Greeks, and and Jews. In the harbour the author observed Greek, Turkish, and Russian vessels.—In Nikolaew he visited M. Afonin, a disciple of Linnæus, a worthy old man who lives there in philosophic repose and retirement. Some years since, there was a lightning conductor at Nikolaew, which was destroyed by the populace, who imagined that it was the cause of a long drought.

Otschakow is almost entirely in ruins. The author pays the same tribute to the politeness and philanthropy of M. Matthias, inspector of quarantine at Otschakow, that he receives in Sumarakow's travels. In his company he visited Kinburn, where the commandant, who is likewise a German, related to them the details of the well-known history of the descent of the Turks, in the last war, in which Suworow first made his appearance as Suworow. A circumstance, which the commandant testified as an eye witness, namely, that Suworow delayed the attack, because he expected a regiment of Hussars, which he had ordered to come up, is no small justification of the Russian general, who has so often been reproached with cruelty on account of that delay.

From Otschakow the author proceeds to Odessa. His observations on that town, as well as on Ovidiopol, are almost the same as those made by M. Sumarakow, and therefore we shall not here introduce them. The reason why the latter town is thought to be the ancient Tomi, the place of Ovid's exile, and has therefore been denominated Ovidiopol, is perhaps not generally known. When the foundation of that fortress was laid, a stone bust of a female was discovered. The Royal Society of London, to which it was sent by the Empress, pronounced it to be a bust of Julia, the daughter of Augustus, and in consequence this spot was supposed to be the place to which Ovid was banished. The new town was therefore called Ovidiopol, by the Empress's command.

From this place the author returns to Cherson, where he makes many interesting observations on the management of sheep bred in the adjacent Steppe, on the race of wild horses in the valley of Ingul, not far from Cherson; on the quality of the soil of the Steppe; and on the commerce of Cherson. From that place he prosecutes his journey by way of Kisikermen to the Crimea. The entrance to this peninsula, and its key Perekop, are painted in the same dismal colours as by Sumarakow. But the country about Achmetschet (Sympheropol) appears to the author to possess the greater charms. He here relates the story of a Crimean Werther, a young officer, who, a few days before the author's arrival, stabbed himself with "a Tartar dagger," for love of the daughter of the celebrated P. This is a proper subject for our sentimental traveller, and will probably interest the

the sentimental reader; for this melancholy story is related by the author very circumstantially, and quite *con amore*, and with it he concludes the first volume of his travels.

The second commences with an account of the author's stay in the house of the venerable Pallas, who, as is well known, resides at Achmetschet, and gives the most cordial reception to all travellers of distinction who visit Achmetschet. This trait of hospitality, and indeed all that the author relates of this literary veteran, is extremely prepossessing. We cannot refrain from introducing here the picture which the author draws of him:—'Notwithstanding his age, Pallas is still lively and cheerful. The temperance and sobriety of his mode of life preserve a delicate constitution, impaired by long and fatiguing journies. His external appearance, upon the whole, is not prepossessing; but the features of his countenance are agreeable, and indicative of acuteness and good nature. It may be clearly seen in him, that vice was ever a stranger to his heart. His conversation, like nature, which he studies, is simple, unassuming, and attractive. He does not appear to be fond of any particular topic, but speaks on all occasions with equal vivacity and interest. His passion is travelling, and he declares that he was never more happy than during his travels. Nobody can say less of himself than he does. It appears as if he was the only person unacquainted with the celebrity of his name.' But after these admirable traits, the words with which the author concludes his account must leave a melancholy impression on the reader's mind. 'But,' he says, 'it must not be imagined that this worthy man is a stranger to care, and is sheltered by the shield of philosophy from all the storms of life. Ignorance, envy, and malice, endeavour to destroy the tranquillity of his latter years.'

Of Achmetschet, Baktschisarai, and Tschu-Fut-Kaln, the author says nothing that is not already known. Upon leaving Baktschisarai he passed through various domains belonging to Russian noblemen, and amongst the rest an estate of M. Hablizl's, author of the physical description of the Crimea. He then prosecuted his journey by way of Inkermann, Sewastopol, or Achtiar, and Bulaklawa, to the mountains, and paints, in glowing colours, the beautiful valley of Baidari, which he denominates the valley of Love; the charming district of Alupka, the cataract of Akar-Su precipitating itself from the height of 150 fathoms, the majestic Jalta, and the other partly pleasing and partly sublime beauties of this Russian Switzerland.

At Tarachtasch the author paid a visit to a Tartar princess, the sister of the last Chan of the Crimea, who lives at that place, like a Läis, partly in the European, partly in the Asiatic style. From Kaffa, or Feodosia, the author returned by way of Karassubassar, the most populous of all the Crimean towns, to Achmetschet; from which place he made excursions to Tschatir-Dag, the sources of the Salgir, and to Eupatoria, on which occasion he highly extols the sanative properties of the mud of the lake Sack, situated in the vicinity of that town. At length he quits Achmetschet entirely. "Often send us travellers from Moskow," said Pallas, at parting; an expression that crowns the pleasing picture of him given by the author. The latter pursues his route through Eski Krimm, (Old Krimm) Arabat, Kertsch, and Jenikal, the ancient Pantikapäum, whence he crosses over to the island of Fanagoria, or Taman. Before he leaves the Krimea he presents a survey of that peninsula, particularly with regard to its physical state, but which certainly cannot afford any novelty after the descriptions of Pallas and Hablizl.

The town of Fanagoria, founded in the year 1786, on the island of the same name, which is likewise called Taman, comprehends at present nothing but a fortress, and its only inhabitants are a regiment of soldiers. The celebrated stone found here, and described by Count Mussin Puschkin, which

which decided the dispute relative to the principality of Tmutarakan, lies under a wooden shed near the garrison church, and is surrounded with an iron railing. The hill which threw out fire a few years ago, still smokes and black naptha, together with a dark grey mud, issues from it.

The island of Taman is assigned to the former Saporogian Cossacks, now the Cossacks of the Black Sea, as their residence. Jecatherinodar is the residence of their principal Attaman.

Proceeding along the Caucasian line the author travels principally through Steppes, in which the climate is very unhealthy, and the mortality in the regiments stationed there very great. It was not till he arrived at Georgiewsk that he was again cheered with the prospect of woods and blooming meadows. From Constantinogorsk the author made an excursion to the mineral spring in Caucasus, called by Pallas, Alexander's spring, and by the Circassians denominated Nar-San. Its water resembles Seltzer water.

At Constantinogorsk the author was gratified with a sight of *what he had wished above all things to see—a young female Circassian*, whom he describes as a prodigy of beauty. He likewise paid a visit to a Circassian usden or nobleman, who, by his intercourse with the Russians, is more civilized than the rest of his countrymen, but when at home lives quite in the Circassian style. This is succeeded by an account of the Caucasian tribes, which we shall pass over. The warm baths at Constantinogorsk are as much frequented as the mineral springs.

From Jecatherinograd the author turns aside to Astrachan. He is totally silent respecting Mosdok, Kislar, &c. and the reason of this silence was the trouble which the author experienced in consequence of the illness of his two attendants, who were attacked by an inflammatory fever. This circumstance caused him the more uneasiness as he was destitute of medical advice; for it was with the greatest difficulty that he could procure the assistance of the regimental surgeon at Mosdok; so that he forgot every thing else in his anxiety for his servants.

He arrived at Astrachan just at the time of the vintage. In the vineyards are produced above twenty kinds of grapes, amongst which the author gives the preference to the Kischmisch. M. Sacharew, governor of Astrachan, a great lover of Russian literature, possesses a good Russian library, and has parties several times a week, which, besides the nobility, are composed of merchants of different nations, particularly Armenians, some of whom, resident at Astrachan, are immensely rich. The hospital of St. Paul is a fine building, and kept in admirable repair. The description of the custom-house, of the religious worship of the Indians, and of the trade of Astrachan, will not admit of any extract.

Sarepta, the Moravian colony, near Zaritzin, is in the most flourishing condition. The number of individuals composing it amounts to about 500. The author's account of the order, cleanliness, and air of independence that prevail here, perfectly coincides with the descriptions of others. The village of Schönbrunn, a few wersts from Sarepta, with a spring of mineral water, is likewise inhabited by Hernhuthers.

Of Zaritzin the author says but very few words. A violent shower of rain, which stopped him when setting off, serves him for an excuse. The last letter is dated from Bronnizü, where the author, to use his own words, lays aside the pilgrim's staff, and concludes his peregrinations with these words:—*Et s'ils n'ont fait ma gloire, ils ont fait mes delices.*

These travels contain little new information on the countries and people described; but, nevertheless, are not without interest. And if it be considered for whom Mr. I. professedly wrote, and that his principal object was to call the attention to provinces of his native country, remarkable in many respects, this must silence criticism, which might otherwise be justly severe on the author's style, and in particular accuse him of many omissions.

GERMAN

GERMAN BOOKS.

Historich statistische Beschreibung des Hochstifts Würzburg; Historical and Statistical description of the Bishopric of Würzburg; by Gregory Schöpf. 8vo. 574 pp.

VARIOUS authors have within these few years directed their attention to the Statistics of different parts of Franconia. The work of Mr. Schöpf here announced is divided into fifteen sections, and compiled from materials drawn from the most authentic sources.

The origin of the bishopric and principality of Wurzburg, its extent, its ancient and modern division, &c. are the subjects of the first section. The second treats of the maps, and the extent of the bishopric and principality. In 1788 the prince-bishop ordered a map of the bishopric to be begun; it was finished in 1790, and will soon be published at Nuremberg.

The population is the subject of the third section; it is computed from actual enumeration, the tables of which are annexed. The author displays great knowledge of the best modern works on geography and statistics.

In the fourth he describes the physical constitution of the country, its mountains, vallies, rivers, lakes, fish, &c. It contains very valuable notes, and facts but little known, as well as the two following sections which treat of the productions of the three kingdoms of nature in the country of Wurzburg.

The seventh and eight sections are devoted to the industry of the country, and the efforts of government to encourage it. The author there speaks of particular establishments for preparing and finishing raw materials, of the exertions of government to remove the obstacles that oppose the progress of industry; and mentions the articles of exportation. This section is enriched with notices on the weights, measures, &c. of the country, which details should never be wanting in a good statistical account.

In the ninth section he treats of the taxes; this is an interesting article at the present moment of settling the secularisations, and indemnities. The religion, constitution of the clergy, the chapters, and convents are the subject of the tenth section.

The eleventh and twelfth relate to public instruction, the improvement of schools in towns and in the country, the establishment of schools for girls, education in general, the progress of the sciences, reforms made in the universities, the state of printing, literature, the arts, collections of pictures, &c. This section might be abridged full one-third, by suppressing in particular the compliments paid to native authors. Their works are known, and it is for an enlightened public to judge of their merits.

The thirteenth section treats of the religious foundations, which are very numerous in the town of Wurzburg; the fourteenth of the prince-bishop and his titles, prerogatives, and administration, and the fifteenth and last contains a list of works consulted by the author.

Among the supplementary papers the following are most worthy of notice; the third giving an account of the parishes in the bishopric with their patrons; the ninth presenting a description of the cabinet of natural history of Bonavita Blank, ex-provincial of the order of Minorites, and the thirteenth containing a list of the tribunals, and the places where they sit.

Meine Fuss-reise durch Schweden und Norwegen; My Travels on foot through Sweden and Norway. By de la Tocnaye; accompanied with observations and additions, by the Translator. Vol. 1. 352 pp. 1 rxd. 4 gr.

THE author commences his travels in Ireland, which country he left previous to the rebellion, and after visiting Scotland went to Gottenburg. From

that place he proceeded by way of Trolhatta, Jonkœping, Nakœping, and Nordkœping to Stockholm. Leaving Stockholm in the depth of winter, he visited Gripswalde, Strengnaes, Eskilstuna, Arboga, Dylta, Oerebro, Upsal, &c. and returned to the Swedish capital. He again set off in spring to see Sala, Fahlun, the Porphyry-works of Elsdalen, Dalecarlia, and arrived on the frontiers of Norway, where he concludes this volume.

The author having staid some time in each town, and being acquainted with the Swedish language, he was enabled to collect a great number of interesting facts, and to compose a far more solid work than his travels in Ireland. We shall introduce a few of them.

At Gottenburg about 500,000 barrels of salt herrings, and 30,000 barrels of herring oil are sold in favorable years. For a barrel of oil, 10 or 12 barrels, each containing 1000 or 1200 herrings are required.

Page 196, the author treats of the religion of Thor, of the antiquities and history of Sweden, of Odin, Thor, Freya, Edda, &c. and page 226 are observations on the history, manners and language of the ancient inhabitants, on the Gothic language, and its dialects, on that of Finland and Runic characters. These observations afford no novelty, and though the author frequently reproaches travellers for plagiarism he himself frequently copies from those that have preceded him, even without acknowledging it. The Runic characters are now known to have belonged to the ancient Gothic language, and 1060 stones have been discovered in Sweden with inscriptions of this kind, which possess no kind of interest.

The observations on Dalecarlia are more deserving of commendation; but the author is mistaken in asserting that this province is the most populous in Europe; some districts are certainly crowded with inhabitants, while others are deserted and abandoned.

The porphyry-works of Elsdalen are a new establishment, which employs 70 work men; vases are manufactured there, of the value of two or 300 dollars. The capital of this establishment consists only of 15,000 dollars.

In winter the Laplanders resort to Dalecarlia to the fairs, and proceed as far as Fahlun. But this must only be understood of the Laplanders settled in the vicinity of Raervas, who possess large flocks of reindeer, for the real northern Nomadic Laplanders very seldom quit their own country.

The copper found in great quantity in the neighbourhood of Nordkœping is prepared, according to the author, in a vast manufactory. He does not appear to have taken the trouble to visit it, for if he had, he would have found the immense edifices belonging to this establishment empty, or at least occupied only by a dozen workmen.

The style of the translation is easy and agreeable, but the orthography of the Swedish names is extremely incorrect, and founded solely upon the pronunciation. It would produce endless confusion in geography if every nation took the liberty of writing foreign names according to its peculiar method of pronouncing them.

Braga und Hermode: Braga and Hermode; or, New Magazine for the Archæology of the Language, Arts and Manners of Germany. Edited by F. D. Gräter. Vol. 4. Part I. 251 pp. Part II. 294 pp. 8vo. 1 rxd. 8 gr.

TO the lovers of German archæology, this continuation of a work very valuable to them, will give great satisfaction. The learned editor finds no scarcity of contributions, on the contrary, he has many which he is obliged to postpone. At the beginning of the present volume, is an hexameter translation, by himself, of the song of *Eric the wanderer*; or, the Origin of the Three

Three Classes of Society, from the Iceland original, contained in Sandwiz, and recently re-printed with observations by M. Sjöborg. The continuation of the northern heroic romance, *Tyrsing*, is likewise by M. Gräter. In an essay *on the human sacrifices of the Germans*; by M. Delius, of Wernigerode, he refutes that charge against the ancient Germans, which has been so frequently repeated, and lately revived without any new grounds. The accounts of Tacitus are here very justly appreciated with regard to their extent and credibility.

The editor's supposition that in the present names of some places are still to be discovered vestiges of the worship of the northern deities introduced into Germany, would be confirmed by the list of names of places and towns, communicated by M. Carl Heinze, even though the etymologist did not, in every instance, coincide with the accepted derivations.

The *Miscellanies on the customs and mode of thinking of the ancient Germans* are principally collected from the chronicle of Speyer, and accompanied with observations. They relate partly to various penal laws, and partly furnish no inconsiderable contribution to the history of Ordeals. An interesting essay, by Suhm, on the facility with which christianity supplanted the religion of Odin, translated by M. Gräter, is contained in this volume. Both the hindrances and difficulties, and the means of promoting a change of religion are very ably discussed.

Mr. John Gottfr. Hermes has contributed some very excellent specimens of the songs of the minstrels of the 13th century. Germany is so rich in these compositions that a collection of them, with the addition of the originals, and a glossary, would be desirable. Two specimens are introduced of the manuscripts of the ancient German poets, in the Imperial library; they are tales of chivalry in rhyme, in the manner of the French Fabliaux. The account of the Wolfenbuttel manuscript of the poetical romance on the same subject, entitled, Frederick of Swabia, is concluded in this volume: the memorabilia of ancient northern literature, relate partly to the labors of the late Mr. Suhm, and to the equally heavy loss which that study has sustained in the decease of the learned Icelander Gudmund Magnaus, or Magnusson, who was engaged on a critical exposition of the Edda of Salmund, the completion of which is thus suspended.

The letters on the Spirit of Northern Poetry and Mythology commenced in the third volume of this work, are continued in the second part of the present volume. Annexed are genealogical tables of the northern deities, drawn up with great perspicuity, by a young friend of the editor.

The article entitled *Gothic remains of the fifth and sixth century*, is highly interesting.

The subject of *Northern literature* is continued from a former volume, and is succeeded by observations, by the editor, on the prize question of the academy at Berlin, relative to the Goths. He likewise corrects an error with regard to the literature of the Franks, according to which *Kanzungali* is reckoned one of the most ancient German poets. This word is found to be nothing but *cantiuncula*, corrupted in the Bavarian dialect to *Kanziunkeli*. The extracts of letters to the editor, and the miscellaneous notices in the volume are not without interest.

Beitrage zur Natur-geschichte; Memoirs on Natural History. By H. F. Link. Vol 1 and 3. 8vo. 1 rxd. 16 gr.

THE first volume is composed of three memoirs. As these have all been published before we shall content ourselves with only mentioning their titles.

titles. The first is: On the scale of nature, and on the natural and artificial system. The second memoir treats of the vital powers with relation to natural history, and the third is entitled Fragments of the Philosophy of Natural History relative to the division of its doctrines.

The second volume contains geological and mineralogical observations, made during a tour in Spain, Portugal, &c.

In the introduction the author explains what he understands by geology, which is, the description of the order in which natural bodies are found, and constitutes physical geography.

This is succeeded by observations on the formation of the south west of Europe in general. We know that Forster and Pallas explain the present form of the earth's suface, by an inundation from the south west. The author attacks this opinion by shewing that there exist powerful currents from west to east, as at the streights of Gibraltar, in the Channel, and the Baltic; that these currents are confined between immense chains of mountains, the direction of which determines the form of the country, and lastly, that there are many currents that run from north to south. 'To suppose great revolutions, says the author, in order to explain these forms, is cutting, not untying the knot.' However these revolutions appear to be confined both by tradition and history.

2. In the physical and mineralogical geography of Portugal, the author describes the mountains of that country according to the provinces, and the characters of several minerals.

3. The observations on the physical and mineralogical geography of Spain, France, and the southern part of England, must necessarily be very superficial, on account of the short stay which the author made in those countries.

4. Observations on the bottom of the sea. This, according to the author, in no respect resembles the surface of the continent: it is more uniform, and less broken by hills and vallies. No new mountains can be formed on it since it is composed only of sand and shells, seldom contains clay, and has no calcareous stones nor any others of considerable magnitude at a certain distance from land. The perpendicular rocks of many islands and countries, together with Donati's history and observations on the Adriatic Sea, appear, however, to prove the contrary.

5. General observations on geology. The author here explains, in an ingenious manner, the origin of minerals, by precipitation from water. He has likewise annexed some interesting remarks on granit, which he considers a mixture of quartz, feld-spar, and mica.

This volume concludes with some fragments on the botanical geography of the south-west part of Europe. Among other things the author here gives a catalogue of the plants found in most of the European countries, between the 34th and 38th degree of north latitude, he passes to varieties of certain plants, some of which are found in the south, and others in the north of Europe; and lastly to those which in the north of Europe are found in the plains, and in the south, on the mountains. These articles are succeeded by observations on the Portuguese Flora, which on the one hand resembles that of the north of Africa, and on the other that of the south of England, and has very little similarity to that of Spain. The work finishes with a notice on plants found in abundance in the north of Europe, and not to be found in the south of Spain and Portugal.

Taschenbuch der Reisen, &c. Manual of Travels, or interesting picture of Discoveries made in the 18th century, relative to Nations, Countries, and their Productions; by M. von Zimmerman. Second year, or 1803. 12mo. 304 pp. with 11 plates and a map.

THE success of the first volume of this Manual for 1802 induced the author to publish a continuation. The present volume we may venture to predict, will meet with equal encouragement.

The introductory memoir entitled: West Indies, describes the impressions that a traveller cannot fail to experience during his voyage, and upon his arrival in the West Indies, upon comparing the climate, productions, customs, &c. of America with those of Europe, which he has so lately quitted. After treating of the seasons in this part of the world, and their influence, the author describes the hurricane which happened in Martinique the 14th of August 1766, that which took place in Jamaica in 1692, and the astonishing fertility that succeeded them in those islands.

In the article on the inhabitants of the West Indies the author divides them into: 1st *indigenous*; among these he particularly distinguishes the ancient savage Caraibs, of whom there remained in 1763 scarcely 100 families in St. Vincent; in 1790 about 300 families in St. Domingo, and a few individuals in Martinique and Tobago. The author shews, by the example of many words of their language, that it has a great analogy to the Hebrew, Chaldean, Samaritan, and Syriac: 2nd into *foreigners*, consisting of Europeans, Creoles, and Negroes: 3rd into *mixed races*, or mulattoes, tercerons, quarterons, quinterons, sambos, mestises and black Caraibs, of whom there were in 1798 above 2000 families in St. Vincent.

The population of the West Indies may be computed according to pretty accurate data at 1,200,000 negro slaves, and 260,000 whites, or free inhabitants, so that there are five times as many negroes as whites, and the total population of the West Indies amounts to about one million and a half, scarcely half the number of the inhabitants of those islands at their first discovery.

The author next treats of the slave-trade, the price of the slaves, the manner of instructing them, their oeconomy, their lodging, clothing, and the order of their work. He mentions many laws enacted to restrain the barbarity of bad masters. In the same article we likewise find specimens of the Creole language, and notices on the exertions of the Moravian brethren for converting and improving the condition of the slaves in those islands.

He then passes to the history of the Maroons in Jamaica, and in the Dutch colonies of Surinam, Berbice, Essequebo, and Demerary. His observations on the evil consequences of an unlimited enfranchisement of the negroes, are judicious, and the result of them is, that methods should much rather be taken to improve their present condition than to give them their liberty.

At the conclusion of this article the author treats of the cultivation of the sugar-cane, and the processes which it undergoes; of that of cotton, indigo, coffee, cacao, pimento, ginger, aloes, and lastly of the exports from, and imports to the West Indies.

An article on the curiosities of natural history contains interesting notices on the turluru or walking crab, the white-headed eagle, the turtle, &c.

The other pieces in this volume are: 1st fragment of the history of countries, and people in the different parts of the world, or description of the islands of St. Helena, and Ascension; 2nd, marriage ceremonies of various nations, particularly those observed in Java from Schouten, and at Mindanao from Forrest; 3rd, biography of Ch. M. de la Condamine.

The volume concludes with a geographical and statistical survey of the islands of the West Indian Archipelago, explanatory of the map annexed to the

to the work, and engraved from Arrowsmith's. This survey contains accurate details on the present state of the population, culture, exports and imports, government and extent of each of those islands.

Annalen der bildenden Künste für die Oesterreichischen Staaten; Annals of the Fine Arts in the Austrian States; by H. R. Füssli. Vol. II. 8vo. 194 pp. 1 fl. 45 kr.

THIS volume commences with observations on a criticism on the former volume of these annals inserted in Küttner's travels, in which he asserts that the fine arts are neglected at Vienna. M. Fussli refutes the assertion, and, among other things observes, that the academy of fine arts of that city reckons fifteen professors and five or six adjuncts.

The second article is entitled: Observations on the Sculpture of Vienna from the middle of the 16th to the end of the 18th century. Among the distinguished sculptors of Vienna are Messrs. Fischer and Zauner, and among those of former times Rafael Donner.

The third memoir contains reflections on portrait-painting in general, and that of Vienna in particular, and presents some interesting notices on the life and works of the chevalier and professor de Lampy.

The fourth is occupied with observations on the preference given at Vienna to foreign engravings, and on the present state of that art. This article appears to be directed against the engraving of the Last Supper by Morghen from Luigi da Vinci. The author not only asserts that the price of the plate is too high, but that it is not even a good copy of the original, the latter having been too much spoiled. It is certain that it has sustained great injury, but yet the form and character of the heads may still be distinguished, and their expression and resemblance Morghen must be allowed to have transmitted to his engraving.

In the fifth article are found notices on the historical pictures painted at Vienna in the years 1801 and 1802. These are: 1. The Death of Virginia; 2. Socrates before his judges, and 3. Mary and the infant Jesus, by Füger: 4. the death of Sappho by Caucig: 5. Peter delivered from Prison: 6. St. Stephen, king of Hungary, presenting his crown and sceptre to the Virgin Mary, by Maurer, and 7. the conversion of St Paul, by Duringer.

The observations on the talent of the sculptor and painter in the sixth article are not very interesting. The volume concludes with a letter to the editor of the annals on the choice of subjects for the imitative art.

ITALIAN BOOKS.

Raccolta Chronologica, ragionata di Documenti inediti che formano la storia diplomatica della Rivoluzione e caduta della Republica di Venezia:..Chronological Collection of unpublished Documents, forming a diplomatic history of the Revolution and Fall of the Republic of Venice, accompanied with Critical Observations. 3 vols. 4to.

THE author of this work had an opportunity of consulting the secret diplomatic archives of Venice, which were opened in consequence of the revolution, and great part of which is still left in that city. To proceed with order and perspicuity, he has divided his work into three parts: in the first he explains the origin of the revolution and the causes which paved the way to it; the second describes its progress, and the third its conclusion and results.

By perusing the pieces composing this collection, we discover by degrees the internal and external causes and likewise the known and secret springs which

which prepared and produced that revolution. We even find facts absolutely new and unknown, and which tend to elucidate not only the history of Venice, but likewise that of all the European states. One of the most important parts of these volumes is the preliminary discourse on the political state of the republic of Venice at the æra of the revolution and of the overthrow of the French monarchy.

The decline of the Venetian state dates, according to this author from the period of the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, which destroyed the source of the commerce and riches of the state, before exhausted by its continual wars with the Porte. It however still possessed other resources which we find detailed in a very satisfactory manner, and which might have saved the state if the principle of an armed neutrality had been strictly maintained. But at the period of the French revolution, that system was abandoned, and that of an unarmed neutrality adopted. The author's principal view is, to shew the causes which led to the adoption of and perseverance in a system so highly detrimental, and likewise to point out the persons who, after having embraced it, defended it with the utmost obstinacy. These persons were the *Savi*, several of whom are named by the author, and who, from weakness or perfidy, did not communicate to the senate the reports of the ministers and governors of provinces which might have induced the adoption of other measures.

There exists, he says, in the archives, a port-folio, entitled: *Communications not read to the Senate*, containing upwards of one hundred dispatches, and a great number of letters communicated by the state-inquisitors to the Savi, and which the latter arbitrarily suppressed without presenting them to the Senate.

The author speaks in terms of high commendation of the state-inquisitors, who certainly used every exertion to save the state; but their power being limited, and not being seconded by the college of the Savi, all their efforts proved ineffectual.

Among the Venetian ministers, Antonio Capello, who was first ambassador at Madrid, and afterwards at Paris, is particularly distinguished.....Into the first volume, page 1 to 90, are introduced some very detailed reports, entitled *Origine della Rivoluzione del anno* 1788, *al Giugno* 1796.

To counteract the influence of revolutionary principles, the Court of Turin proposed to the Venetian minister, Rocco Sanferino, a general coalition of all the Italian states, setting aside every other political consideration. The report on this proposal, dated November 5, 1791, is inserted p. 13, but it made as little impression on the college of the Savi, as the attempts made soon after for the same purpose by the cabinets of Vienna and Naples. The state-inquisitors, on their part, tried every method to direct the attention of the Savi to the spirit of rebellion that began to manifest itself in Italy, but with as little success as the Court of Turin. A great number of other details we are obliged to pass over in silence in order to take some notice of the other two volumes.

The second volume has as a particular title: *Del progresso della Rivoluzione dal* 1 *Giugno*, 1796, *al* 12 *Marzo*, 1797. We here find a detailed narrative of the progress of the French army in Italy, commencing with the taking of Verona. The revolution advanced with gigantic strides towards Venice, a shew was made of concentrating the forces of the state, but, at length the system of an unarmed neutrality was adopted. The cities of Bergamo and Brescia declared for the revolution; the papers relative to these events will be found at the conclusion of the second volume.

The third volume, entitled: *Consummazione della rivoluzione e caduta della republica di Venezia del* 12 *Marzo al di* 13 *Maggio* 1797, contains the subsequent progress of the French armies, the negociations commenced at Leo-

ben, the insurrection of the Veronese, and lastly the revolution of Venice and fall of that state completed the 12th May, 1797.

The author very justly inveighs against the conduct of France, and is not less severe on that of the generals who commanded in Italy. The insurrection at Verona, he says, was occasioned by the attachment of the inhabitants to their former government, and their having been compelled to declare for the revolution.

Upon comparing the facts related in this history, the idea will however arise that the germ of the catastrophe of Venice had long existed, and might without difficulty have been discovered. The history of the fall of Venice is an additional confirmation of the grand principle of real statesmen that half measures produce an effect contrary to that intended, and that although political espionage may sometimes reveal imminent dangers, it inevitably paralyses the courage necessary for opposing the evils that threaten a state by maintaining distrust amongst its chiefs.

Di un antico testo a penna della divina comedia di Dante; Of an ancient manuscript copy of Dante's Divina Comedia, with notes 4to.

FATHER Costanzi the superior of the Calixtine convent at Rome, discovered, some time since, in the library of Monte Casino a very ancient manuscript of the Divina Comedia, particularly valuable on account of the commentary annexed to it. Upon comparing it with father Lombardi's beautiful edition published at Rome in 1791 in 3 volumes 4to, Father Costanzi observed many variations from the text of the present publication. He also found in the commentary a great number of historical notices, anecdotes and dates which greatly contribute to the understanding of the text, and throw considerable light on the source whence Dante actually derived the principal ideas of his poem.

To this day all the commentators have been ignorant from what quarter Dante borrowed the leading ideas of this performance. Dante himself says that he took Virgil for his guide, and various passages of his poem prove the truth of the assertion. Malatesta Porta maintains that the ground-work of the Divina Comedia is taken from a romance of ancient chivalry, entitled: *Il Guerrio di Durazzo*, or *Il Meschino*: but the learned Bottari proves the slight foundation for such an opinion, pointing out another source whence Dante borrowed the idea of the three divisions of his poem, and even some of its minor features.

This source is the *Vision of Alberico*, a monk of the convent of Monte Casino. Alberico pretended to have had this vision at the age of 9 years: it was preserved in his convent, and Bottari has seen a copy of it at Rome among the collection of Father Constantino Gaetani's manuscripts preserved in the library *de la Sapienza*.

Father Costanzi, by comparing with the utmost attention the Divina Comedia, and the vision of Alberico, found a great number of passages that bear a great resemblance to each other, and which he has published in this memoir.

Bottari has proved by irrefragable arguments that the vision of Alberico was composed above 100 years antecedent to the Divina Comedia; it was so well known that painters chose from it subjects for their pictures. Dante therefore, who was ambassador at Rome and at Naples, who had resided in the neighbourhood of Alberico, and had probably visited Monte Casino, could not be ignorant of it. Thus it is more than probable that it is from this vision that he borrowed great part of the plan and the principal ideas of his poem, even admitting that the original idea of the vision belonged to some author still more ancient than Alberico.